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THE INDEPENDENT

No 3,729 TUESDAY 29 SEPTEMBER 1998 (1950p) 45p

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IN THE TUESDAY REVIEW



Passive smoking in pregnancy causes gene mutation in babies

PREGNANT WOMEN exposed to other people's cigarette smoke are significantly more likely to have babies with genetic mutations linked to cancer, according to new research.

It is the first hard evidence to suggest that passive smoking can cause the same type of genetic damage in unborn infants as that found in adult smokers with cancer.

The implications are that an untold number of unborn

children are being put at risk as a result of their mothers being exposed to passive smoking while pregnant. Scientists say the results show there is a need for even tougher rules on smoking in public places.

A study in the United States of 12 newborn babies born to women who were exposed to passive smoking, and 12 infants whose mothers were not subjected to other people's cigarettes, is the first to demonstrate that secondary tobacco smoke causes genetic mutations in the womb. The researchers, led by Barry Finkelstein, a paediatrician at the University of Vermont in Burlington, analysed blood samples taken from the babies at birth for mutations in a gene that is linked with childhood cancers.

"Some studies suggest that children whose mothers smoked during their pregnancy are not at an increased risk for developing cancer as a child," the researchers report in the journal *Nature Medicine*.

"In contrast, there is accumulating evidence that maternal exposure to passive smoke, as well as a history of paternal cigarette smoke exposure in the absence of maternal cigarette smoking, is correlated with an increased risk of childhood cancer, especially leukaemias and lymphomas in children less than five years of age."

The research on pregnant women exposed to passive smoking is the first clear evidence of a biological link between tobacco and potentially malignant changes in children, the researchers said.

The study found mutations in the white blood cells of the babies but the scientists warned that there could be other genetic transformations that they might have missed.

"Given our small sample size, there may well be other differences that we were unable to detect. However, the statistical significance of the differences we found are as valid as those from a much larger study provided [our] sample is representative," they said.

Another study, published last August, on the effects of tobacco smoke on pregnant women found significantly high levels of cancer-causing substance in the first urine samples of newborn infants.

The latest research strengthens the case for increasing the protection of pregnant women against smokers, says Dr Gabriella Sozzi, a cancer specialist at Italy's National Cancer Institute in Milan, in an editorial in the journal.

"This study provides incontrovertible genetic evidence of the devastating effects of tobacco smoke particularly on the young, who suffer a greater risk from environmental toxicants... not only because of their small size but also because of their physiological immaturity."

No other environmental factor, whether to do with diet, lifestyle or pollution, has such a pronounced effect on the risk of developing cancer as tobacco smoke, Dr Sozzi said.

Blair targets bad teachers and doctors

TONY BLAIR will launch the next phase of his plan to modernise Britain today by warning that bad teachers and poor doctors will be rooted out to improve public services.

In his speech to the Labour conference in Blackpool, the Prime Minister will urge his party not to lose its nerve as the Government starts to confront "tough decisions" on the economy, welfare and the efficiency of the public sector.

He will place teachers and doctors in the front line of a Government move to tackle what ministers privately call "the vested interests in the public sector".

Mr Blair will announce that heads whose schools perform badly will be sacked, but those who turn round bad schools will get extra pay.

"There is no greater injustice to a child than a poor education," he will tell the conference. "There will be rewards for good teachers but no room for bad teachers."

He will reveal that doctors in the NHS will face new checks over their performance and more rigorous selection procedures. Poor doctors may be forced to retrain.

Ministers claim the doctors are a "law unto themselves" and have too much say over treatment, their pay and bonuses and disciplinary procedures. They believe the baby deaths scandal in Bristol will persuade the public to support radical change.

Another "vested interest" on the target list is the police, although Mr Blair may not reveal his hand today. Ministers are worried that efficiency levels of different forces vary widely and believe that chief constables have too much power.

Although Mr Blair will insist that the public sector "will be modernised according to our principles and values", one ally said last night: "There will have to be sacrifices, and there will be squeals of pain."

BY ANDREW GRICE
Political Editor

The speech marks an important change of gear by Mr Blair, who believes the Government is entering a critical mid-term phase after taking some of its easier decisions in its first 17 months in office.

"It's time to bite the bullet," one aide said.

Mr Blair will warn his party that the reforms will attract "opposition and controversy" but that "radical change never came without a struggle".

Admitting that his Government may become unpopular as a result, he will say it is better to be unpopular than wrong.

"We need to show the same res-

claimants, so existing ones will not lose their benefits.

Mr Blair will announce a new package of measures to reduce crime, including a pledge to cut car crime by 30 per cent in five years.

Pledging his support for "zero tolerance" of crime, he will reveal that 25 to 30 towns and cities will run pilot schemes in "hotspot policing", modelled on New York.

It will involve hitlers by police to tackle pockets of high crime, and will mean more young people being taken to court rather than being let off with a caution.

The Prime Minister will risk the wrath of his party by restating his commitment to low taxes, saying that New Labour did not win last year's landslide by saying it would "tax people through the roof".

While he will say he understands the anxiety caused by world economic problems, he will rule out any U-turn and insist that Britain can weather the global storm.

There is no question, he will say, of changing the Bank of England's inflation target or its remit - a course demanded by the trade unions. He will also reject calls for action to bring down the value of sterling.

While adopting Margaret Thatcher's "there is no alternative" theme, Mr Blair will reassure his party that he does not share Thatcherite values. He will reject her cult of "crude individualism" and speak of his strong belief in "community partnership and fairness".

Mr Blair will endorse the tough message to the conference yesterday by Gordon Brown, the Chancellor, who insisted that the Government would not change course to court short-term popularity.

Mr Brown also sought to draw a line under recent tensions between him and Mr Blair. He effectively promised not to plot against Mr Blair in order to become Prime Minister.

JUST GOOD FRIENDS?

Brown and Blair make up, page 7

plus
Mandelson's spin under fire, page 6
Michael Brown, page 6
The clapper net's verdict, page 7
Conference "rigging", page 7



Licencees pressing for new drink laws use the image of modernising Tony Blair at their stand at the Winter Gardens, Blackpool. Brian Harris

Greens set for power in Schroder coalition

GERMANY BRACED itself yesterday for the biggest political realignment in its post-war history, as Gerhard Schröder's Social Democrats set about forming a government with the help of the Greens.

Negotiations leading to the first ever "Red-Green" coalition will begin on Friday, the two sides announced after their respective leaders emerged from their huddle. The process is likely to take several weeks.

Helmut Kohl remains Chancellor in the meantime, though with obvious reluctance, after leading his Christian Democrats to their worst result since 1949. The Christian Democrats won just 35 per cent of the vote on Sunday, 6 per cent less than four years ago.

Mr Schröder has about a month to strike a deal with the Greens before the new Bundestag convenes. Though he is dependent on the support of the Greens, he warned yesterday that he would drive a hard bargain. "The Greens are going to have to prepare for a clear and tough round of talks," he said.

Among the most difficult differences to resolve are nuclear power. The SPD is in favour of phasing out nuclear plants over

a 10-year period, while the Greens want them shut down immediately. The two parties combined would have a majority of 21 in the new parliament.

As the winners celebrated Sunday's landslide victory, the outgoing government continued to be rocked by resignations. After Mr Kohl's announcement that he would step down as party chairman, it was the turn of his Finance Minister, Theo Waigel. Mr Waigel announced he would quit as chairman of the Christian Social Union.

Greens go into battle, page 12
Leading article, Review, page 3

How to become a Freelance Writer

Freelance writing can be creative, fulfilling and a lot of fun, with excellent money to be made as well. What's more, anyone can become a writer. No special qualifications or experience are required.

The market for writers is huge. In Britain alone there are around 1,000 daily, Sunday and weekly papers, and more than 8,000 magazines. Many of the stories and articles that they publish are supplied by freelancers. Then there are books, theatre, films, TV, radio...

With such demand, there's always room for new writers. But, as Mr. E. H. Metcalfe, principal of Britain's leading writing school The Writers Bureau, explains, "If you want to enjoy the rewards of seeing your work in print, one thing you must have is proper training."

The Writers Bureau runs a comprehensive correspondence course covering every aspect of fiction and non-fiction writing. The 140,000 word course is written by professional writers and has been acclaimed by experts.

Students receive one-to-one guidance from tutors, all working writers themselves. From the start they are shown how to produce saleable work. "At the Bureau our philosophy is quite simple," says Mr. Metcalfe. "We will do everything in our power to help students become published writers."

The course comes on fifteen days' free trial. In addition, the Bureau offers a remarkable money-back guarantee - if you haven't earned your tuition fees from published writing within one month of completing the course, your money will be refunded in full.

So, would you like to be a writer? Why not start now - ring our free enquiry line or post the coupon today!

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Worldwide slump hits bankers' Christmas party

THE GLOBAL financial crisis has finally hit where it hurts. Merrill Lynch, the American investment bank, yesterday cancelled its Christmas party in London in the first of a series of moves to cut £150m a year from its costs.

Its 600 staff were looking forward to a repeat of last year's yuletide festivities at the Natural History Museum in South Kensington, London, but were told by management yesterday that the party had been axed as part of an austerity drive.

Renting the museum's dinosaur hall costs about £7,000 at Christmas. Merrill will now lose its deposit on the booking, worth around half that. The evening's costs would have come to more than £20,000.

Merrill said: "It's fair to say that we're reconsidering some of our entertaining plans, including the Natural History Museum. In the present environment it might give way to a wine bar - or the Old Bull and Bush pub might be more appropriate."

It is not alone in planning to cut costs. With billions lost in Asia and Russia, most City institutions are tightening their belts. Merrill's staff learnt of other restrictions yesterday.

No more limousines to Heathrow. Staff are now banned from hiring a car for lifts to the airport. No more Concorde to New York. Staff will have to travel economy class. City sources suggest that BA will be hard hit, as Merrill Lynch executives have been

one of Concorde's mainstays in recent years. No more slap-up meals with contacts at fancy restaurants without permission. Entertaining clients must be agreed with superiors first.

However, the biggest worry in the City is that the cost-cutting will extend to bonuses, which depend entirely on profits earned by the banks.

City jobs gloom, page 17



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As the Daily Mail, house journal of the middle classes, overtakes the Mirror for the first time, a social milestone has been passed. So who are the paper's readers? And where do they come from?



What is Middle England?

BY JACK O'SULLIVAN

THE DAILY MAIL was selling well yesterday in Bental's shopping centre in Kingston upon Thames. For the glass-domed four-storey emporium is a temple to Middle England, whose every mood the Daily Mail seems to reflect.

Few shoppers were surprised to learn that the paper has finally ousted the Mirror as Britain's second-best selling newspaper. The majority seemed to read it. Most were happy to call themselves part of Middle England, that burgeoning class of ambitious, self-improving home-owners who have become wedded to capitalism and consumerism.

They used to be patronised as lower middle-class aspirants. Terry and June on television and the Gambols in newspaper cartoons belittled their attitudes. But with their importance reflected in American-style malls like this one, they have gained a less damning description, also derived from America - Middle England.

Marjorie Sharples, 56, and her daughter, Jane Howell, 29, are proud Middle Englanders. They had driven yesterday from Petersfield "for our shopping fix" at Bental's, whose water fountains and background Mozart are so soothing, even if the criss-crossing white bridges joining shopping galleries remind one of prison gangways. They could stop for a cappuccino at Bella Vista, nip into Disneyworld with Mrs Howell's three-year-old son, Curtis, check out the designer wares for a family wedding and drop into Racing Green to view the winter collection.

"I came from a cotton town in Lancashire," said Mrs Sharples. "My parents were poor. Now we have our own wholesale stationery business.

READING BETWEEN THE LINES

| | ADMIRERS | EATS | WATCHES | WEARS | HOLIDAYS |
|-------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| MAIL MAN | Jill Dando, the firm-but-fair blonde-next-door television presenter who recently topped a BBC poll of favourite news-readers - intelligent, but not threatening. From the boys, Tim Henman flies the flag. | At Cafe Rouge, reasonably priced French cuisine without the distressing authenticity of garlic. If at home it's Della Smith or supermarket ready meals. Not Kwiksav, definitely not Iceland. | Changing Rooms. You wouldn't want them in your house, of course, with all that burgundy and time. But if the Home Front team wanted to do the garden... Hates Channel 4. | Marks and Spencer, affordable quality and unbeatable support underwear. But dressed up with a bit of Racing Green catalogue and the odd piece of Ralph Lauren. You don't want to look like the neighbours. | In France. Paris by Eunstar for romantic breaks (with vouchers from the colour supps) and camp site or gite with family. At home, it's Centreparks - to get the kids away from Street Fighter III. |
| MIRROR MAN | Michael Owen - lives at home, loves his mum, sticks with his mates. Have him on my team any day. A credit to Ingerland. Shows all them foreigners how to dribble. Gazza can put it away, but he's over the hill. | Really fast food. MacDonalds, Burger King, and the chip shop. "Chicken nuggets, spring rolls, kebabs, savoyes - oh, and a fish please." Big night out ends with a hot Madras. | Gladiators. It's brash, it's noisy and it has Ulrika. And you know that if you laid off the beer, you could bash that bloke with the over-sized cotton bud. And all the soaps of course. | Hot brand sportswear. Designer t-shirts. And expensive trainers - really expensive trainers. If female, large amounts of gold jewellery are a must. Come to think of it, that goes for the men too. | In Spain. You can't beat the Balearics. Where else can you get drunk as a skunk, red as a lobster and sick as a parrot, and English breakfasts to boot? At home it's Butlins - a shame they don't do duty free. |

So we're not rich, but we're not poor. We've sneaked into Middle England.

Until the last election she had voted Conservative. But, like a sizeable chunk of Middle England, she was successfully wooed by Tony Blair. "I

voted Labour for the first time."

Their food shopping habits are typical: Sainsbury's or Tesco for the basics, Marks & Spencer for luxuries. The same goes for clothes. "I get my basics, knickers and so on, at

Marks & Spencer," said Mrs Howell. "Then I'll go to Next, Principles and Bental's."

Their holiday destinations would have been dreams for previous generations: France, Egypt, Switzerland, Germany. Likewise, their favourite

restaurants - French and Italian - would have been beyond the reach of their grandparents.

But, as Peter York, the style guru, points out, Middle England "wants something better, and when something better turns up, they want to have it".

You can sense this aspiration in the television programmes people watch. "They want to improve themselves not in an intellectual way, but with news that they can use," said Mr York, who runs FRU Ltd, specialising in market research.

The dominance of programmes such as *Groundforce*, *Changing Rooms* and *Ready, Steady, Cook* reflect the cultural hegemony of Middle England as surely as do sales of the Daily Mail. The presenters of these household favourites encapsulate this group's values: Alan Titchmarsh, constantly trying something new and yet simultaneously solid, dependable, provincial and decent.

There are other heroes: Jill Dando and Gary Lineker, the girl and boy next door, who have enjoyed a seamless, scandal-free rise based on self-improvement while retaining an ordinariness. What do Kingston's shoppers believe in? Patricia Caunter, 37, a nurse in a children's cancer ward, summed up what I was told again and again: "Good, courteous behaviour, traditional family life. The way we were brought up." Which paper did they read? "The Mail," said Mrs Howell. "We got fed up with the Sun and the Mirror. They used to annoy me. They were just silly, like comics, more for men than women."

Middle England is, as is clear from the readership of the Mail, driven by female aspiration and consumer choice. It is also, however, a broad church, taking in the broadsheet-reading, Habitat-frequenting middle classes as well.

And, as Mr York says, there are generational differences. "There are still the older nylon net curtain types, with the front parlour lifestyle. There is the Hyacinth Bucket type, who likes the Royal Doulton when she goes to the restaurant at the local grand hotel. She might not appreciate the plain surfaces and polished concrete that her daughter might like."

There are also style tensions within Middle England between those aspiring to the simple modern design of Ikea and more traditional ideas, Ikea's "chuck out the chintz" advertisement touched that nerve within Middle England. For some in Middle England, being surrounded by chintz remains a source of pride, not embarrassment.

Why modern women no longer look in the Mirror

BY JOHN DAVISON

THE PROCESS has been going on for almost 30 years, but in the end it was decided on the issue of a "Lucky Wallet".

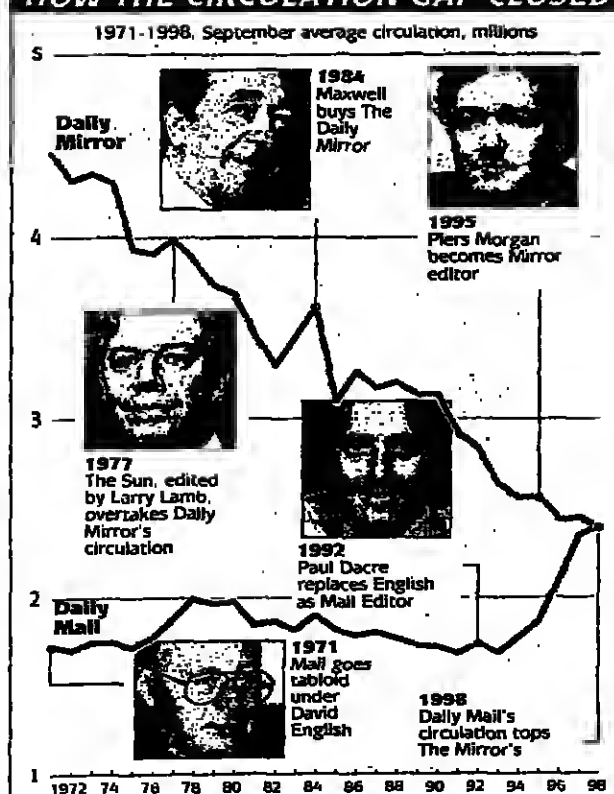
According to industry estimates sales of the Daily Mail, bible of the aspirational classes and creator of the concept of "Middle England", have overtaken those of the Mirror, redolent as it is of flat caps and betting shops. The final push came from the Mail's latest promotion, called "Lucky Wallet", which is said to have cost £4m and boosted sales this month by up to 100,000 copies a day.

The decline in sales of The Sun, although recently arrested, only serves to confirm the trend. Very New Britain, but how did it happen?

The man normally accredited with this attitudinal revolution is the late Sir David English, who re-invented the daily as a "compact" tabloid in 1971 when its middle-market rival, The Express, was still coming out in broadsheet format. Sir David also led a trend to attract more women readers by launching the paper's highly successful Fe-Mail section, and his right-wing campaigning in the 1980s led to a knighthood from Margaret Thatcher.

In fact, when he stood down as editor in 1992 Sir David had

HOW THE CIRCULATION GAP CLOSED



done very little to add to the paper's circulation. In 1971 it averaged 1.73m a day, and by the time he left it was 1.74m. What he did do was to improve the "quality" of the readership by

attracting more middle-class "ABC" people into the Mail fold, which made it more attractive to advertisers and so far more profitable. He also kept his head, and

his readers, when all about were losing theirs - especially The Mirror. Over the same period its circulation plummeted from almost 4.5m to 2.83m, and in December 1977 was overtaken for the first time by the lusty Sun of Larry Lamb - page three and all. Much of this, say commentators, is attributable to initially ignoring The Sun, and also to the take-over of The Mirror by Robert Maxwell, an event from which its credibility never recovered.

Since the appointment of Paul Dacre to the editorship of the Mail, circulation has continually climbed - benefiting both from the demise of Today in 1995 and from the increasing sophistication of newspaper readers. Meanwhile The Mirror underwent a series of savage cuts to its editorial budget.

Piers Morgan took over at The Mirror in 1995 and is seen as having helped to stem the paper's slide - it is currently selling 2.38m and has a modestly rising circulation. But this has not been without controversy, most notably over pictures of the Princess of Wales exercising in a gym. He is now said to be trying to move the paper upmarket to match the rising aspirations of his former readers. Even The Sun has gone for a new-look page three. Good morning New Britain.

GP was victim of art fraud

BY ANDREW BUNCOMBE

A FAMILY doctor lost thousands of pounds buying a fake painting sold to him by John Drewe, the alleged mastermind of a massive modern art fraud, a court was told yesterday.

Dr Jeffrey Sherwin, a GP from Leeds, bought the painting from a reputable auctioneer believing it to be the work of the modern artist Ben Nicholson. In reality, the work - described variously as "Composition 51", "Cockers" and "Isles of Scilly" - was a fake painted by John

"Unfortunately for Dr Sherwin, it was seized by police," said Mr Bevan. "Had he known what you now know, he may have thought twice about spending £4,234 on it."

Mr Bevan said because the painting had a lengthy history or "provenance", Dr Sherwin expected it to fetch between £8,000-£12,000. In truth, he said, the provenance was created by Mr Drewe who had altered the archives at the Tate gallery and other galleries and museums.

Mr Drewe, 50, from Reigate, Surrey, is alleged to have masterminded a 10-year racket in which he created provenances for non-existent paintings before paying Mr Myatt to create them. Mr Drewe, along with Daniel Stokas, 52, from Exeter, Devon, denies a charge of conspiracy to defraud.

Mr Drewe also faces a number of other charges, all of which he denies. No charges have been brought against Mr Myatt. The trial continues.

IN THE FORCE, BETRAYAL IS A CRIME WORSE THAN MURDER.

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Obesity: US firm plans to open £3,000-a-week 'fat camps' for youngsters as star who once weighed 16st sheds 20lb

Health farms planned for fat children

HUNDREDS OF overweight children could soon be spending their summer holidays dieting and exercising at American-style health farms.

For nine weeks the children, some as young as seven, will be subjected to an intense exercise regime including aerobics, cycling and swimming and will be restricted to a diet of 1,200 to 1,500 calories a day - most children should eat between 1,750 and 2,000 daily. The course will cost £3,000.

One California-based camp is planning to open in Britain next year as soon as it has found a suitable site. Nancy Lenhart, of the La Jolla weight-loss camp, said the decision followed a significant rise in the number of British parents contacting the so-called fat camps in the US.

"We think a camp like ours will work well. Five years ago it was only Americans but the number of British children coming here to lose weight has been increasing year on year," she said.

Although there are no precise figures on the number of obese British children, a study

BY KATE WATSON-SMYTH

by Exeter University of 700 children between the ages of 11 and 16 showed that more than 13 per cent of the boys and 9 per cent of the girls were overweight. In America twice as many children - one in five - are officially classified as obese.

Paul Gateley, a lecturer at Leeds Metropolitan University who is doing a PhD on weight loss in children, said most of the American camps were simply run to make money and did not take a scientific approach to helping overweight children.

Mr Gateley, who worked in a children's health farm in Massachusetts, said he was appalled. "When I first went there all the children were on a 1,000-calorie-a-day diet, regardless of whether they were seven or 17 and irrespective of how much they weighed," he said.

"They were made to do a form of circuit training which they did not enjoy and which didn't encourage them to stay active once they got home."

Dee Dawson, the medical director of Rhodes Farm, a London clinic for eating disorders,

said that most overweight children had a psychological problem and nine weeks at a fat camp would not solve it.

"From what I understand, these camps do not address the psychological problems and children who are overweight need therapy," she said. "It is rare for children to over-eat unless they have a problem and they need to work it out with their families and have family therapy to try and sort it out."

"But very often children just don't need to diet. They are growing extremely fast and their height and weight will usually balance out."

Barbara Livingstone, a nutritionist and researcher in childhood obesity at the University of Ulster, said she was concerned at how the camps would be run.

"I would be worried that children who were only mildly overweight were being sent there. It is dangerous to put children on a diet without the advice of a qualified dietician and also telling them they are overweight and sending them away could also create problems with a child's self-esteem."



Oprah Winfrey lost 20lb in weight to appear 'Vogue' (above). In the past the talk-show queen has shed up to 5st 2lb by dieting

Oprah lends her weight to thin lobby

BIG GIRLS don't cry. But newly trim ones do, especially when their reward for losing 20lb is their photograph on the cover of the fashion bible American Vogue.

Oprah Winfrey burst into tears when she saw the new pictures of herself. Most women would not find that surprising. For not only has she become the first talk-show host to grace the cover in the magazine's 110-year history, it is also a fair bet to say she is the only Vogue cover star who has ever seen her weight climb as high as 16st 13lb.

Not that she weighs anything like that amount now. Still, Anna Wintour, the editor of American Vogue, asked her to lose nearly two stones for the shoot. "I was totally chicken. I did not approach her directly. I went through her agent," the editor later admitted.

The result, photographed by Steven Meisel, was a svelte and glamorous Ms Winfrey, dressed in a black Ralph Lauren dress and looking years younger. It is a far cry from when the 44-year-old weighed the same as Mike Tyson.

"This is a part of myself I didn't know existed. I am telling you I wept when I saw every one of the Polaroids," said Ms Winfrey, whose high profile coincides with the release of her new film, *Beloved*, from the book by Toni Morrison.

A Vogue spokesman said yesterday that it was a "natural step" for Oprah to be in Vogue, but that people had to have the "Vogue look" because it was a "successful aspirational magazine" and so the weight loss was necessary.

Oprah is perhaps the world's most famous dieter and has frequently shared her battle of the bulge with her audiences, at one point wheeling a barrow-load of fat on to the stage to show how much she had lost.

But the words Yo-Yo Diet Syndrome could have been invented for the talk-show queen.

BY GLENDA COOPER

In 1990 she lost 67lb, but by 1992 was more than 16 stone again. In 1994 she once again lost a stunning amount - 72lb (or 5st 2lb) - with the help of a punishing exercise regime and a personal chef, Rosie Daley, who made very low fat meals. In *The Kitchen with Rosie: Oprah's Favourite Recipes* became one of the fastest-selling books in American publishing history.

However the weight piled back on again - particularly when she was involved in a battle earlier this year with Texan beef farmers, who sued her unsuccessfully for slander. (Such is her power that a comment on Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease, "It has just stopped me cold from eating another burger," had caused prices on the cattle futures market to plummet.)

Oprah, who had approached Vogue herself about the possibility of a cover, enjoyed being photographed so much that she arranged for four viewers to have the same experience. She took them behind the scenes and to a Vogue party.

Ms Wintour said: "I don't think you see too many really hot pictures of Oprah and I think she's a really hot sexy woman. You work with so many people who get so jaded, but she was really overwhelmed. It really meant something to her."

Oprah's partner, Stedman Graham, went even further. "It's unbelievable!" he said on seeing the shots. "It's like the culmination of all she's worked for. From being overweight to this point is one of the greatest victories a person can have."

Zoe Sauter, booking editor for British Vogue, said that putting Oprah on the cover had caught the zeitgeist. "We've used celebrities before, and it is a way that the trends are going. Would we use someone like Oprah Winfrey? I don't see why not."

Obesity epidemic hits US

JUNK FOOD, poor access to fresh meat, fruit and vegetables and inadequate education about what it takes to keep a child healthy: these are some of the factors that have led to an epidemic of obesity across the United States, and in children in particular.

According to one estimate, up to one American child in every five is overweight. The statistics vary according to region and socio-economic group.

Relatively few children living in affluent communities on the

BY ANDREW GUMBEL
in Los Angeles

east and west coasts, where a wide variety of food is available and there is greater health consciousness, suffer from the problem, while it is more prevalent in the Midwest and South.

In recent years, summer camps where children can lose weight have become increasingly popular. One well-known location, Camp Shane in the Catskill Mountains of upper New York State, offers a three-

week course for just over £1,200, or a nine-week course for just under £3,000.

The camp claims to teach children "how to eat healthfully" and lose 10-15 pounds over the training programme.

These courses are targeted at richer children who statistically tend to suffer from the opposite syndrome. Medical studies have shown that excessive concern about healthy eating has in fact caused malnutrition in some better-off families.



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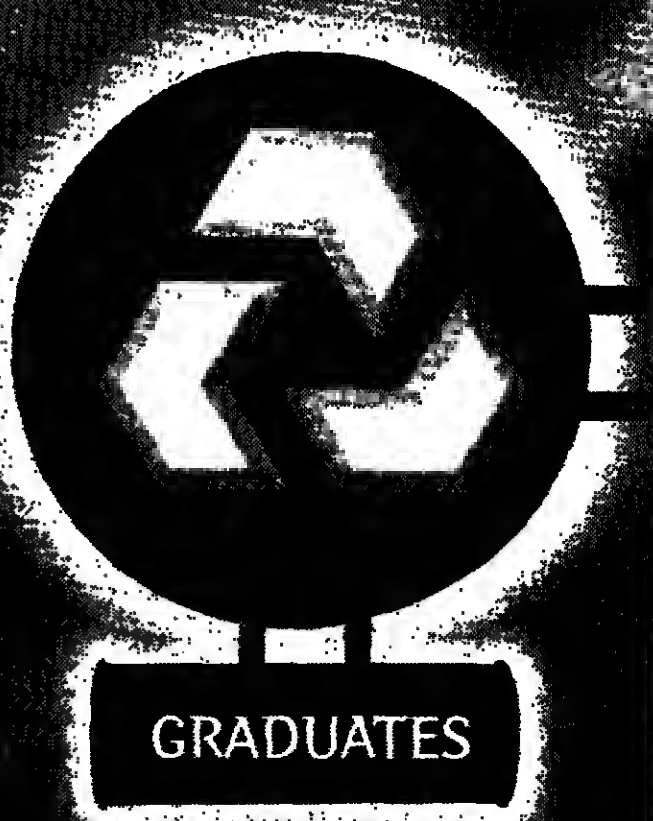
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Mandelson spin under attack

INDUSTRY
BY BARRIE CLEMENT AND
SARAH SCHAEFER

PETER MANDELSON was comprehensively upstaged yesterday by the leader of the Post Office workers' union who derided the destructive briefing of "faceless and spineless backroom boys in Whitehall".

Referring to newspaper reports hinting at the privatisation of the Post Office, Derek Hodgson, leader of the Communication Workers' Union, told the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry that his members were "sick and tired of spin and leaks".

Unlike Mr Mandelson's speech, which was greeted with polite applause, the union leader's contribution was punctuated by cheers and concluded in a standing ovation.

An address by Bill Morris, leader of the Transport and General Workers Union, called on the minister not to water down proposals on employment rights and also drew an enthusiastic reception.

Mr Morris later demanded that the "fairness at work" White Paper be implemented in its entirety, including the abolition of the limit on compensation for unfair dismissal.

The debate was a clear victory by "Old Labour" over "New Labour". Mr Hodgson's speech received the most prolonged applause.

The Secretary of State sat stony-faced as Mr Hodgson tore into the anonymous "spinners" of Whitehall.

Mr Hodgson's anger had been prompted by two articles, one of which forecast that Post Office employees would receive £2,000 worth of free shares if the organisation was



Peter Mandelson at the conference yesterday where CWU leader Derek Hodgson attacked the 'backroom boys of Whitehall' Ian Walde

partially privatised and another which said that senior managers were secretly plotting to sell off 40 per cent of the equity.

The union leader reminded Mr Mandelson that he had promised the TUC conference earlier this month there would be no more spinning. "Well Peter, I suggest you tell some

of your colleagues to follow your example if you truly mean it."

The story suggesting there would be free shares for postal workers was "rubbish", but even if it were true postal workers would not be bribed. And he pointed out that the so-called plot to sell off the corporation was based on a

leaked letter. "Let me say to this conference I and the Post Office workers are sick and tired of spin and leaks and being used as political foot-balls by faceless, spineless backroom boys in Whitehall. It's got to stop and this conference should clearly say that."

Referring to a call for mutu-

al trust in the movement by Tony Blair yesterday, he said: "I say this to the Prime Minister - trust must work both ways - you can trust the CWU, but you must sort out your own ministerial departments who are promoting mistrust."

Mr Blair and the party had promised commercial freedom for the Post Office, but 100

per cent state ownership. "It is therefore a question of the integrity of the Government being on the line. If they don't keep promises how can they expect others to do so?"

Mr Mandelson's address lacked any detailed commitments, but sought to make his mark as the friend of Britain's entrepreneurs.

Old Labour is just sleeping

THE LABOUR Party conference resembles a TV game show with its glittering stage set. Enthusiastic, young (ish) delegates are called to the rostrum to talk loyally and animatedly about the exciting developments in their constituency policy meetings, throw in the habitual Tory-bashing and make their implicit bids for the candidates list.

The chairman supposedly selects speakers at random but I marvel at how well-prepared and sanitised each speaker's text appears to be. One wonders what subtle efforts have been made, in advance, for those duly favoured to be called to have been briefed to sit in strategic parts of the hall. But it doesn't always work, and one had egg slipped through.

The backdrop to the speaker's rostrum resembles a giant Rubik cube of different primary colours. When the bigwigs are called, the colours all become one. So when Gordon Brown stepped up it became a pink brick wall.

Mr Brown has been tiring of his trusty friend Prudence in recent months, especially after his £10bn spending spree in the summer, but he is obviously feeling a gap in his life since he dumped her. Yesterday there were only two references to her and he was back to his love affair with alternative vacuous phrases.

His speech had all the ferocity of a grim Methodist preacher. He went "goal" scoring and everything was "a challenge". He scored six "goals", but they were beaten by 12 "challenges". Goals were to be "achieved" the New Labour way. They were "the 1994 goals": they had been "abandoned" and he would "pursue" them. When it came to "challenges", there was no stopping him. There were four "challenges of change"; he would be "equal to every challenge" and would "face up to the challenge" as well as "challenge old patterns" before finally promising to "rise to the challenge".

Tony Blair sat on the platform and was always the first to punctuate favourite buzzwords in the speech with enthusiastic applause, which was the cue for delegates to follow suit, often with little enthusiasm. It would be better if Mr Blair held up a large card with the words "clap now", because not all of them have accepted "the challenge of change".

It was then the turn of Peter Mandelson to step out of the shadows, lose the tag of chief spin doctor and make his conference debut as a Cabinet minister. But if he expected to be the hero of the hour he was probably sorely disappointed.

His adenoidal tones lectured about technology and he declared himself a revolutionary. "Don't worry, not a Marxist revolutionary, but a modern industrial revolutionary."

There were eight revolutions in the speech, but they were not enough for Derek Hodgson, of the Communication Workers' Union, who attacked "faceless, spineless Whitehall backroom boys" over Post Office privatisation.

The real revolution was on the conference floor, which erupted with a spontaneous standing ovation for Mr Hodgson. Mr Mandelson looked as though he had just sucked a very sour lemon. Old Labour is not dead, it is merely sleeping.

THE SKETCH



MICHAEL BROWN

Mr Brown perorated and the conference, led by Tony Blair, dutifully stood and ovated. As Mr Brown resumed his seat the Prime Minister virtually blew kisses to him, standing over him whispering sweet nothings into his ear. John Prescott felt left out, and as Mr Blair was about to leave Mr Prescott summoned him over. "Oi, what about me?" he seemed to be saying.

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Darling signals support for second pensions

THE SECRETARY of State for Social Security, Alistair Darling, unveiled his vision of a modernised welfare state yesterday with a strong hint that the Government was set to back private second pensions for all workers.

He told the conference the present system badly needed to catch up with changes in employment, the family and an ageing population. The state

WELFARE REFORM
BY PAUL WAUGH
Political Correspondent

pension would continue to provide a vital safety net for poorer elderly people, but able-bodied workers had a duty to take out second pensions. "We know the problem. There are too many people who can

save for their retirement who are not saving and who need to save more. They have a responsibility to do so."

Mr Darling said the autumn Green Paper on pension reform would have "personal responsibility" at its heart and that "enabling" services, not just cash, should be offered by the welfare system.

But he did not say whether

the Government would make the second pensions voluntary or compulsory, as urged by the former reform minister Frank Field. Mr Darling said a modern welfare state should not be "a passive system responding to failure", but should instead use private and public sectors to enable people to provide for themselves.

"Beveridge was a man of his

time. But if he were alive today, he would want a different system," he said. "The world now is not the world that faced Beveridge. Too much of what the welfare state does is out of date. And too much of what it does it does in an out-of-date way."

Every benefit would be subjected to review to ensure it met the needs of the modernised welfare state. Despite opposi-

tion from disability campaigners, he refused to shy from reform of the complex system of incapacity benefits and vowed to end the Tory ploy of using it to hide mass unemployment.

Echoing suggestions that benefits claimants will be issued with "smartcards", he said the social security system would be transformed by modern technology.

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'Only loyal MPs chosen to speak'

LABOUR LEADERS faced new allegations of "rigging" their annual conference last night after an internal document, leaked to *The Independent*, revealed how they tried to ensure that loyal delegates were chosen to speak in debates.

The report disclosed that Labour's Millbank headquarters in London asked its regional offices to draw up a list of "reliable" speakers who

DELEGATES ROW
By Andrew Gritce
Political Editor

would support the Government and allow officials to draft their speeches.

Left-wingers seized on the report as further evidence of the "control freak tendency". But they claimed the attempt had backfired and that delegates had shown they were not afraid to criticise the Government.

The document described "three basic categories" of speaker. The first was "an extra special one or two for every debate... the one who will get on TV, who we should work with on speech in advance of conference. Speech should be good for TV but also tackle arguments against our position strongly".

The second group was described as "normal - people with stories to tell, not fantas-

tic but time-fillers". The third was "loyal people with initiative. People ready to get up and speak without needing to be prompted and without us needing to write their speech for them. Need to be strong speakers who can persuade people and reliable".

Training sessions were held in each region in the run-up to the Blackpool conference. In some areas, delegates were asked to fill in a questionnaire

asking whether they had "a story to tell" and whether there were "local examples (school buildings, NHS spending, smaller classes, New Deal etc) to show Labour's achievements".

Labour also faced embarrassment over the revelation that a list of the 188 delegates from the London region showed that only 14 of them were considered suitable to speak in Blackpool. Their

names were marked with a "Yes" or "No", with unreliable delegates described variously as "Trot", "naïve", "argumentative" or a "Ken Livingstone supporter" while a loyal person was dubbed a "sofie". Others were described as "mostly sensible - black," and "the nice to - politically sound".

Labour confirmed the list was genuine but said disciplinary action had been taken

against the party official who had written on it. A Labour spokesman said: "The party disapproves of any comments of a personal or political nature being used in connection with these lists. This was a one-off incident which the party has investigated and is satisfied will not happen again."

Ken Livingstone, the Labour MP for Brent East, said: "We're supposed to be a political party, not a dating agency." He

warned the leadership that the attempts to control the conference would "explode in its face".

Dennis Skinner, the MP for Bolsover, said the document was a matter of concern but that the attempt to fix the conference had already failed. "The mood is very encouraging. Speakers are not 'on message', which is a healthy development. The strategy is not working," he said.

Blair spared divisive PR vote

ELECTORAL REFORM
By Paul Waugh
Political Correspondent

TONY BLAIR is to be spared an embarrassing conference vote on electoral reform after a behind-the-scenes deal between anti-PR campaigners and party managers.

The debate on proportional representation, likely to be the most explosive of the week, will go ahead on Thursday on the wishes of most activists.

However, it has emerged that leading PR opponents have decided a vote could prove too damaging to the leadership and will instead remit their emergency motions after the debate. The need to avoid a conference decision on the issue was borne out yesterday when the depth of division among government ministers was laid bare in fringe meetings and media interviews.

The Foreign Secretary, Robin Cook, and Mo Mowlam, the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, gave strong backing to PR and claimed a referendum should be held before the next election.

Yet earlier in the day Cabinet "enforcer" Jack Cunningham denied there was any Government commitment to hold a poll on PR this Parliament.

Foreign Office minister, Derek Fitchett and Defence minister, John Speller, went even further and launched formally the First Past the Post group of Labour MPs with vitriolic attacks on pro-reform campaigners and the Liberal Democrats.

The move to avoid a damaging vote on PR became clear last night when anti-reform campaigners admitted they were negotiating a compromise with the National Executive Committee to remit the motion.

A special debate on reform will now be held on Thursday after the subject came second only to transport policy in the ballot of delegates.

Stuart Bell, MP for Middlesbrough and chairman of the First Past the Post group, said that he wanted debate but did not want to damage the Prime Minister further following the Left's victory in the NEC vote.

Mr Cook earlier told BBC Radio 4's *The World at One*: "The referendum should be some time between now and the next election."



Gordon Brown, the Chancellor (right), with John Prescott, the Deputy Prime Minister, at the conference yesterday. Brian Harris

Kiss-and-make-up routine puts an end to the Brown-Blair rift

THE SMOULDERING feud between Gordon Brown and Tony Blair over the leadership was put to rest yesterday by the Chancellor of the Exchequer with a public declaration that he is not after the Prime Minister's job.

In his speech, Mr Brown rejected calls by John Edmonds, the GMB leader, and Rodney Bickerstaffe, the Unison leader, for public-sector workers to be awarded inflation-busting pay rises, and said there was no alternative to his economic policies.

But the Chancellor's friends said the key message to Mr Blair in Mr Brown's conference speech was a more personal one - as long as Tony Blair is Prime Minister, I am happy as Chancellor. I'm not

LEADERSHIP TUSSELE
By Colin Brown
Chief Political Correspondent

after his job. There was speculation among ministers that Mr Brown and Mr Blair had agreed the rapprochement over private talks to put an end to the corrosive reports of the bitterness the Chancellor nursed over being outmanoeuvred for the Labour Party leadership by Mr Blair and Peter Mandelson.

Mr Brown has not abandoned his ambitions to replace Mr Blair when the Prime Minister steps down, and Mr Blair's aides confessed to being puzzled by the Chancellor's decision to draw attention to their alleged rift by his "kiss and make up" routine. "We don't

know what he's up to," said one Blair aide.

It was sealed in a carefully choreographed photo-opportunity on the conference platform between Mr Blair and Mr Brown.

Mr Blair went across to his Chancellor and patted Mr Brown on the back after the Chancellor poured praise on Mr Blair for his long-term vision for the party, and spoke of their closeness since sharing a small office when they entered Parliament 15 years ago.

The Chancellor praised Mr Blair for rewriting Clause Four of the party constitution to replace state ownership with a commitment to ensuring wealth, power and opportunity were in the hands of the many,

not the few. Mr Brown declared: "These goals are what I know. I am here to play a part in achieving them."

"These are my political ambitions, not the ambitions of office, but in the office I hold, to help fulfil our shared ambitions for our country."

Ministerial colleagues said last night that Mr Brown was "pained" by the reshuffle in July when Mr Blair moved Mr Brown's ally, Nick Brown, from the Chief Whip's office to the relative obscurity of the Agriculture Ministry.

He stopped Mr Blair from sacking his Treasury minister, Geoffrey Robinson, but he was upset by the reports that Mr Blair had used the reshuffle to show the Chancellor who was the boss.

"It was hard for Gordon to accept that he was the number two, after being the more senior partner for years. But Gordon has accepted that."

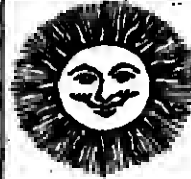
One minister said: "He now realises he has got a big international job to do, with the IMF, and the World Bank and G7, and that is what he is now doing."

It came to a head when reports of their bitter feud resurfaced last week.

There are likely to be more splits over policy between Number Ten and Eleven Downing Street, but Mr Brown may be ready to accept a limited move towards electoral reform. His big challenge will be in convincing Mr Blair to enter the single European currency.

BLACKPOOL ILLUMINATIONS

GOOD DAY



◆ Chancellor Gordon Brown, putting an end to speculation about a rift between him and Tony Blair during his speech on the economy.

BAD DAY



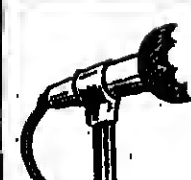
◆ Gloomy conference start for Peter Mandelson after he was given a verbal beating by union leaders.

REBEL OF THE DAY



◆ Union leader Derek Hodgson gained a record 45-second standing ovation when telling Peter Mandelson he was "sick and tired of leaks and spin".

SOUNDBITE OF THE DAY



◆ Rodney Bickerstaffe, general secretary of Unison, attacking Chancellor Gordon Brown for freezing nurses' wages: "Not jam yesterday, not jam tomorrow, but a little bit of jam today for those who will look after you tomorrow."

BEST FRINGE MEETING



◆ *The Independent's* "What's the Big Idea", of course, with Home Office minister Alun Michael and Labour left-winger Ken Livingstone debating the Third Way.

BEST PARTY



◆ Scottish dancing and kilts at the Scot's Night in the Stakis Hotel.

CLAPOMETER

◆ Derek Hodgson, leader of the Communication Workers' Union came top with 150 dB, his standing ovation lasting 45 seconds.

◆ Chancellor Gordon Brown came second with 120 dB, and a standing ovation of 45 seconds.

◆ Trade Secretary Peter Mandelson managed 85dB, with a polite 30 seconds' applause.

◆ Culture Secretary Chris Smith had 20 seconds' applause and 85dB.

◆ Social Security Secretary Alistair Darling hit rock bottom with a mere five-seconds-long applause with 100dB.



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Participants on Gloucester's drug rehabilitation scheme receiving acupuncture at the start of the daily group therapy session. David Rose

Drug users given chance to avoid jail

THE GOVERNMENT will this week give courts a controversial alternative to sending drug-using persistent offenders back to prison.

New Drug Treatment and Testing Orders are being launched in three pilot areas, offering addicts the chance of a strict detoxification and rehabilitation programme instead of being sent back to the overcrowded and drug-infested prison system.

The programme, which is due to be introduced nationally in 18 months, will be piloted from this week in Gloucestershire, Croydon and Liverpool. In Gloucester, Steve Gyde's 23-year career of car-thefting,

burglary, arson and drug-dealing has sent the crime rate soaring. At yet another court appearance earlier this year he expected, once again, a prison sentence.

Having been caught with a large quantity of heroin, he seemed likely to be jailed for five years. Instead, the judge decided to give him one last chance.

Now Gyde, 37, sits on a sofa with a dozen acupuncture needles protruding from his left ear, sipping herbal tea and planning an honest future.

He is among the first of hundreds of drug-addicted persistent offenders who are to be given the chance to rectify their criminal behaviour rather than being sent back to prison.

Gloucestershire Probation Service's Drug Stabilisation Treatment Programme has allowed Gyde to stay off heroin for seven months and turn his back on crime for the first time in his adult life.

A father of four, who has never worked, he was known around town as "Skeletal" because of his drug-ravaged features. "My skin looked like it had been stretched out over my bones," he said. "If I had carried on using heroin, I would be dead by now."

Now he follows a fitness regime and plans to open a sandwich bar. His transformation has already reduced Gloucestershire's crime bill by more than £50,000.

Gyde is one of seven successful graduates of the programme, which is run in conjunction with the Severn NBS Trust. It is a hard regime. Most of the other 41 offenders have relapsed into drug-taking and have been sent back to

court to be sentenced for their original offence.

The addicts start the course with a methadone-based detoxification course, lasting for up to 12 weeks. They are drug-tested three times a week throughout the six-month programme.

Gill McKenzie, head of Gloucestershire Probation Service, said: "There is no hiding place for them and clearly this is not a soft option. It is a massive leap forward in the treatment of drug abusers."

The course is based on a daily group therapy session which begins with Eden Sutcliffe, a community psychiatric nurse, sticking acupuncture needles into the ears of each addict.

Addicts accepted on to the scheme must pass an assessment interview, often lasting several hours, at which they must demonstrate a genuine desire to turn their lives around.

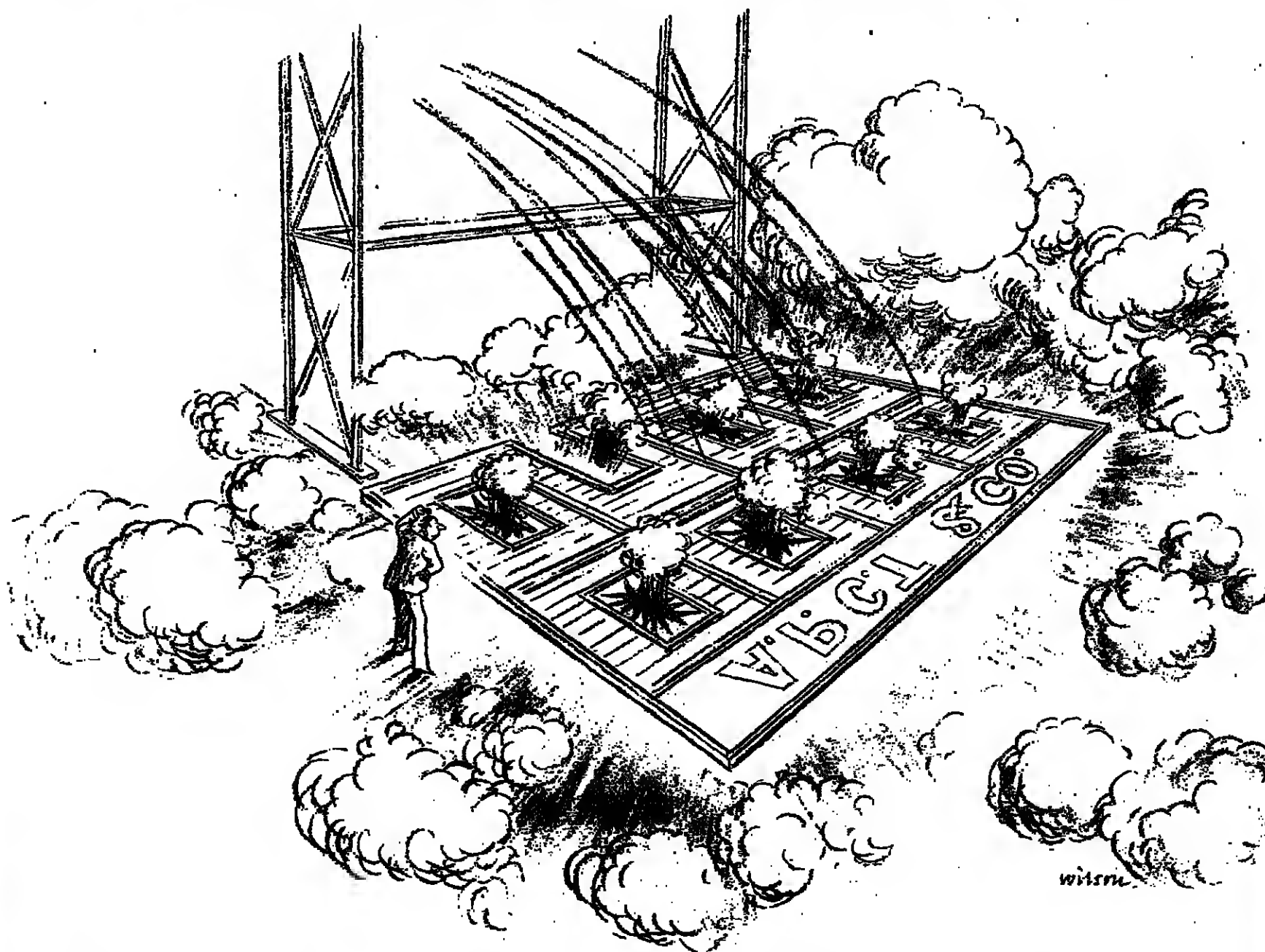
Dave Conway, a probation officer, said: "If they are willing to commit themselves 100 per cent then we will be 100 per cent behind them. If they are not, then they are thrown off the programme, because they are taking a place which could be given to someone else."

If an addict fails to appear for three group therapy sessions they are automatically sent back to court.

The programme has the enthusiastic support of local magistrates and police, who hope it might break the cycle of processing the same offenders through the courts and prisons.

After the launch of the pilot project this week, the Gloucestershire scheme will expand to treat 120 addicts a year, supported by an annual government grant of £300,000. If the pilot schemes are successful they will be extended to the rest of the country in 2000.

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Police crack down on 999 call abuse

CALLERS WHO repeatedly abuse the 999 emergency service could risk having their telephone cut off, a police force warned yesterday.

Kent County Constabulary has announced a new phase in its drive to reduce unnecessary 999 calls. At the start of the campaign a year ago, police noted that of the more than 170,000 emergency calls received in 1996, 73 per cent had nothing to do with emergencies.

Despite a reduction of nearly 20,000 emergency calls last year, Kent police are not satisfied. Superintendent Robert Chidley said: "We have tried exhortation, friendly persuasion and radio and newspaper adverts. With so much at stake, we are working with BT to examine sanctions to con-

vince those who abuse the system to stop."

He added: "The 999 emergency service is a lifeline. Every call which abuses the emergency service endangers that lifeline."

Abuses have included: ■ "Did anyone pick up a £20 note yesterday and hand it in to you?"

■ "I'm in Margate by the train station and I think my last train's gone, do you know if there is another train coming?"

■ "I'm a bit lost. I'm on the M20, I'm trying to get back to junction two on the M25, I'm just heading up the M20, I thought if I come off at junction three then I could turn round and go around the roundabout?"

IN BRIEF

Hunt for disabled British man missing on trip to Majorca

A SEARCH was under way yesterday for a 42-year-old man with learning disabilities who disappeared in Majorca during a trip organised by a residential home. Posters of Barry Denne have been placed around the town of Magaluf asking for help in tracing him after he disappeared on 14 September. Mr Denne was on holiday with care workers from a private care home in Kent.

Pensioner's body stuffed in bin

A PENSIONER was strangled or smothered and her body put in a wheelie-bin and dumped in a canal near Oldham, Greater Manchester. Last night detectives were questioning two girls aged 14 and 15 over the murder of Lily Lillie, 71, who was terrorised by youngsters for years.

Rude awakening for party-goer

A PARTY-GOER who spent the night in a make-shift shelter under a car at Abingdon, Oxfordshire, escaped serious injury yesterday when the car driver drove over him. The 22-year-old suffered only a grazed arm and bruises to his left leg when the car flattened his home-made tent.

Blacksmith banned from shoeing

A BLACKSMITH has been told he cannot shoe any more horses after being found guilty of unprofessional behaviour by the Farriers Registration Council. Stephen Bradshaw of Fleet, Lincolnshire, employed someone to shoe horses but did not fulfil his promise to make them an apprentice.

Rare starling sighted at Durness

HUNDREDS OF bird-watchers descended on Durness, on the remote northern tip of Britain, following the sighting of a lost daurian starling – a bird that should have been heading for the jungles of South-East Asia at this time of year. It is only the third sighting of the bird in Europe.

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Church to allow divorcee weddings

THE CHURCH of England is set to lift its centuries-old ban on divorcees remarrying in church, in a response to the rising divorce rate.

Divorcees could soon be entitled to an identical church service, as if they were marrying for the first time, even if their former spouse is still alive. The change is suggested in a confidential report to be discussed by the House of Bishops later this year.

Now, church regulations advise that "the use of the marriage service in the case of anybody who has a former partner still living". Officially, priests are restricted to providing a service of blessing after a civil ceremony, even if the man or woman was divorced through no fault of their own, such as through desertion, adultery or abuse by the other party. However, clergy are increasingly prepared to deviate from the Church's official line and conduct a full wedding service for divorcees. The situation varies from diocese to diocese, depending on the view of the bishop, but in some

By CLARE GARNER

parishes services for second marriages comprise a significant proportion of the total. In 1996, one in 50 marriages carried out in the Church of England and Church in Wales involved a divorcee, a figure which had risen to almost one in 12 marriages in 1996.

The Archbishop of York, the Ven George Austin, has suggested that the real reason behind the move is to enable the Prince of Wales, who will succeed the Queen as supreme governor of the Church of England, to remarry in church.

The report – the result of a two-year inquiry by a working party chaired by the Bishop of Winchester, the Rt Rev Michael Scott-Joynt – lays down conditions which would have to be met by divorced parties. The emphasis is on catering for innocent parties, and any guidelines would be likely to advise the priest to "take note" of whether one or other party played a part in the break-up of a previous marriage, as well as the views of any children.

Another factor prompting the Church's review is the increasing trend for weddings at licensed non-religious locations such as castles and stately homes. The Church is concerned that people who opt for weddings in such places receive no preparation. Furthermore, divorced couples who have been refused a church wedding would be unlikely to attend an institution which had shunned them – an uncomfortable fact given the decline in attendance figures.

The head of a successful Roman Catholic primary school has been asked to resign from the post she has held for eight years after marrying a divorcee, it emerged yesterday.

Catherine Davidson, 40, who was married in April in an Anglican church, will leave St Augustine of Canterbury RC School in Wigmor, near Rainham, Kent, on Friday. In the eyes of the Catholic Church, she has broken the terms of her contract by not acting in line with her faith. Her husband is understood to have refused to annul his first marriage.



Valerie Lovett, married twice in church: 'Civil weddings don't have quite the same oomph to them'

David Rose

'There was a lot of conflict in me...'

WHEN VALERIE Lovett decided to remarry she knew she wanted a church wedding – not as a pretty backdrop for the photographs, but because she was a committed Christian.

Her first marriage had ended 10 years earlier when her husband left her for another woman. She had fought to save the relationship for the sake of their two-year-old son, Christopher, but there was no chance of a reconciliation.

Although Mrs Lovett knew that she was the abandoned partner, she still took seriously the question of whether it was right to repeat her vows in a church. "There was a lot of conflict in me, knowing what the vows were and what they meant," she said.

However, after conversations with her parish priest, the Rev Wendy Saunders, curate in Thamesmead, south-east London, she realised that a second church wedding was an option. In January this year she was married at the Church of the Cross, in Thamesmead. Christopher, now 12, was the best man.

"We approached Wendy and she was quite happy to go ahead with it," said Mrs Lovett, a school liaison officer. "I was not the unfaithful party. Though

I probably did some things wrong, the actual sinning was done by my husband. I felt I could quite happily go through another ceremony in church."

So Mrs Lovett, 37, and her new husband, John, 40, from Erith, in Kent, joined the growing number of divorcees whose second marriages are prohibited by the Church in theory, yet endorsed in practice. To them, the church wedding put a seal on their relationship in a way that a civil ceremony could never have done.

"As a Christian I wanted to make my vows in front of God," said Mrs Lovett. "I think these civil weddings are very pretty, very lovely, but I don't think they have quite the same oomph to them. For me, it wasn't that I had to have the beautiful church and the fantastic organist. I just had to have a church as such and a minister."

Mrs Saunders does not automatically agree to marry divorcees in church, but in this case she was sure it was the right thing to do. "They were people of considerable maturity who were clear about what they were embarking on and committed to a new family," she said.

CLARE GARNER

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Digital TV broadcaster sets out stall

THE BATTLE for control of digital television started in earnest yesterday as ONdigital, the broadcaster, unveiled details of its launch date and channel line-up.

From 15 November, viewers signing up to ONdigital will be able to choose six pay-TV channels from a package of 18 for £7.99 a month. For an extra fee, they will also be able to subscribe to premium sports and movie channels from Sky and Channel 4.

ONdigital will compete head-on with the digital offering from British Sky Broadcasting, whose 140-channel satellite service launches on Thursday. Cable operators are planning to launch their digital services next year. Sky is offering a cut-price package of six channels for £5.99 a month, but this does not allow subscribers to pick and choose.

Meanwhile, Cable & Wireless Communications, the cable operator, will from next Monday offer a small package of television channels and a telephone line for £9.99 a month. It also pledged to give existing customers a free upgrade to digital television when it launches its service in the spring.

Stephen Grabner, ONdigital's chief executive, said the service would be "easy to get and easy to use" and would offer "something for everyone".

Subscribers will need to buy a set-top box decoder costing

BY PETER THAL LARSEN

£199 in order to receive the service. However, they do not need a satellite dish as ONdigital works through an existing television aerial.

ONdigital will also be available on the integrated digital television service which will be in the shops by Christmas. The service will be backed by a massive £20m advertising campaign which starts today.

ONdigital's package of primary pay-TV channels includes Sky One, Eurosport, the Carlton Network, UK Gold, Carlton Select and the Cartoon Network. In addition, subscribers will receive free channels not available on regular television from the BBC and ITV Shop, the home shopping service.

The broadcaster is planning a new channel, to be called First ONdigital, which will show specially commissioned programmes including sports, entertainment, comedy and music.

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Sky wars, Review, page 14



Greens stake claim to cabinet posts

ON FRIDAY morning, Germany's two victorious left-wing parties will begin the historic task of building the country's first "Red-Green" national government.

Each party will send a 12-member team to the negotiations, though the real work will have to be done behind closed doors by just one or two negotiators on each side. The discussions will be sensitive because of the huge differences between their respective positions, and the massive expect-

By IMRE KARACS
in Bonn

ations of their membership. "We are going into the talks without preconditions, and nor do we accept preconditions," declared Jürgen Trittin, the Greens' chief negotiator. It fell to Joschka Fischer, the Greens' parliamentary leader, to clarify that there were indeed specific issues to hammer over, as he gave journalists a broad outline of his priorities.

Thus, the Greens are com-

mitted to forging an "alliance of jobs" between employers, employees and the government. They are demanding an overhaul of the tax and welfare system, so as to cut the cost of labour in Germany and thus stimulate employment. They are proposing to finance the social welfare reforms by slapping an "environment tax" on petrol.

In car-obsessed Germany, the fuel tax could emerge as the biggest issue separating the two coalition partners. The So-

cial Democrats are also proposing to increase the price of petrol, but by a lot less than their coalition partners, whose ultimate goal is DM5 a litre - roughly £7 a gallon.

The two parties should have little problem agreeing on a new nationality law, which would enable up to 3 million long-term foreign residents to become German citizens. Though there are differences between the two parties' concepts, these can be bridged.

Foreign policy is a more se-

rious point of conflict, especially in the light of persistent rumours that Mr Fischer has his eyes set on the foreign ministry. Without confirming his ambition, Mr Fischer sought to reassure journalists that he or his party no longer want to abolish Nato, and remain committed to Germany's international obligations. "We want a Europe-wide security system," he declared, without mentioning Nato by name.

Mr Schröder, in a separate meeting with the press, tried to reassure Germans and foreign leaders that his government would change practically nothing. "Germany will not be a worse partner under a new government," he pledged. "The international community can rely on Germans to remain good partners."

Mr Schröder reiterated his commitment to European monetary union, dismissing reminders of his earlier opposition to the project as "history". "The new government will do everything to make the euro

a success," he said. The chancellor-in-waiting was confident that the Greens were serious about power sharing.

"I have the impression that the leadership of the Greens is not entertaining the idea of forming a government contract for less than four years," he said. "Care comes before haste. We are not under pressure."

While refusing to discuss the distribution of ministerial portfolios, Mr Schröder repeated that he saw no objection

to the formerly pacifist Mr Fischer becoming foreign minister. "It is not the first time that I have said that I could imagine Joschka Fischer in that office," Mr Schröder said. The SPD won 40.9 per cent of the vote to become the largest party in the next parliament. Together with the Greens, who claimed 6.7 per cent, they would command a majority of 21 seats. The CDU took 35.2 per cent and their liberal allies, the Free Democrats, won 6.2 per cent of the vote.



Workers in Hamburg yesterday removing an election poster backing Helmut Kohl, who lost Germany's general election on Sunday

Fabian Bimmer/AP

Schröder's victory tilts Europe left

GOVERNMENTS in Paris and Bonn come and go but the Franco-German axis rolls on. Maybe.

The defeat of the francophile Helmut Kohl inevitably caused some anxiety yesterday in France, Germany's closest ally. French commentators picked up especially on Gerhard Schröder's declared intention to reforge the Paris-Bonn axis as a Bonn-Paris-London three-wheeler. Such statements are made almost every time a government changes in any of the three capitals. Similar remarks were made, successively, by John Major, Jacques Chirac and Tony Blair.

Ultimately, the sheer bulk of the historical importance of the Franco-German partnership has tended to outweigh attempts, however sincere, to re-invent relations with London.

Until now, as a number of French commentators and politicians pointed out yesterday, the defeat of Helmut Kohl marks a historical, generational, and even geographical, watershed. Mr Schröder will be the first German Chancellor to have no memory of the Second World War. His government will move shortly to Berlin, completing a re-orientation of German pre-occupations away from the Rhine and towards Central and Eastern Europe.

The centre-left newspaper *Liberation* said France would now face a Germany stripped of all complexes in expressing and defending its own interests.

In other words France could no longer count on war guilt, and a determination to end a century of Franco-German conflict, as the bedrock of the relationship between the two countries. It would have to be based on shared interests.

The fact Mr Schröder is a social democrat, like Lionel

By JOHN LICHFIELD
in Paris

Jospin - completing a left-of-centre bloc of governments in the four largest European Union countries for the first time - drew more positive comment. Although Mr Schröder had tended to welcome comparisons with Tony Blair, rather than Mr Jospin, French socialists are confident that, in government, he is likely to follow a more Jospinesque course.

Germany, like France, avoided both the excesses, and the benefits, of the market revolution of the 1980s. The German economy, like the French economy, is moving faintly upwards at last. French commentators expect Mr Schröder, like Mr Jospin, to pick a pragmatic economic course.

In managing the euro, the shared interests of the two countries should be easy enough to identify. French officials expect a Schröder-led government to be more sympathetic to French pressure for joint government control of overall economic policy in the European monetary union zone.

Europe does provide the opportunity, however, for one big potential Franco-German quarrel. Germany will want to push ahead rapidly with enlargement to the east; France under Mr Jospin (for all its protestations to the contrary) does not. Berlin under Mr Schröder is likely to be even tougher than Bonn under Mr Kohl in insisting that enlargement must not be funded principally by German tax-payers.

In the short-term, however, Franco-German co-operation is likely to assert itself strongly. In Paris, it is confidently expected that Mr Schröder's first foreign trip will be to France, perhaps as soon as tomorrow.

At last, Blair has a soulmate in Bonn

HE CALLS his party the "New" SPD, his slogan appealed to the political centre and he even produced an election pledge card for German voters.

Little wonder that when Gerhard Schröder was congratulated by Tony Blair on Sunday afternoon, the world was quick to point up the comparisons between the two men.

So is the new government in Bonn the beginning of a new

By STEPHEN CASTLE
in Brussels

chapter in Britain's relations with Europe? On paper, the result is good news for Mr Blair. The chemistry is good between the two leaders. As one British diplomat put it yesterday: "No one is talking about an overnight change, but Britain and Germany suddenly have more interests in common."

Links between New Labour and the SPD are strong, forged in the international socialist group meetings which take place before summits. Jost Stollman, the 43-year-old entrepreneur and moderniser who was shadow economics minister, was the latest SPD visitor to London and duly impressed Blairites. Whitehall optimists see a series of issues on which Germany could enter

into strategic alliances with Britain.

But whatever the similarities between the two leaders there are doubts about the direction of the new government in Bonn. Mr Schröder presents himself as a moderniser, but some see this as more a matter of image than policy, and unrepresentative of his party as a whole.

The party chairman, Oskar

Lafontaine, is some way to his left and still very influential within the SPD. "It would," said one government source, "be much more difficult for the leader of the British Labour Party to keep on saying 'I represent the right direction of social democracy in Europe', when the French and Germans are taking a course more reminiscent of the 1970s."

Then there are the Greens

with whom Mr Schröder might form a coalition. In London there is concern that the new German foreign minister might be Joschka Fischer, a Green. In April he warned that if Mr Schröder "tried to widen the Franco-German relationship into a triangle with Britain it would be a disaster for Europe. The British government does not know what it wants" (in Europe).

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| | £10,000 | 13.8% | £227.85 | £13,677.80 |
| | £16,000 | 12.8% | £364.75 | £21,885.80 |
| ABNEY NATIONAL | £4,000 | 16.3% | £125.57 | £5,734.20 |
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New Chancellor faces challenge from socialism's old believers

By IMRE KARACS
in Bonn

AMID THE wild celebrations at the SPD headquarters on Sunday, more than a few faces seemed lost in contemplation, furrows deepening across their brows as the hours dragged on. Many party officials could not hide the fear that they had just won the mandate from hell.

To Social Democrats of the "New Centre", the victory was too final. The thumping majority for "Red-Green" appears to have ruled out all alternatives, and threatens to swamp Gerhard Schröder and his allies with ideologues from the left.

The highest challenge to centrist policies will come from Oskar Lafontaine, chairman of the Social Democrat Party.

From his power base in the Saarland, where he is Prime Minister, Mr Lafontaine controls the levers of the party machinery with great skill. He is an old believer, rooted to causes such as subsidising unprof-



Tipped for the top (from left), Oskar Lafontaine, Joschka Fischer, Jürgen Trittin



Tipped for the top (from left), Oskar Lafontaine, Joschka Fischer, Jürgen Trittin



Tipped for the top (from left), Oskar Lafontaine, Joschka Fischer, Jürgen Trittin

itable coal pits and steel mills. Lately, Mr Lafontaine has become a passionate advocate of reform of the international financial system. He is mistrusted by business, but hugely popular with party members.

Mr Lafontaine is set to play a central role in coalition discussions with the Greens. He has been linked to a job as minister of finance. That, however, would damage Mr Schröder's

business-friendly image. So Mr Lafontaine is more likely to end up as head of the Social Democrat parliamentary group, traditionally the second most powerful job in the government.

There is no shortage of ambition among Mr Schröder's coalition partners. Joschka Fischer, leader of the Greens, is often described as "the best chancellor Germany will never have". Aged 50, Mr Fischer is

the wittiest speaker in the Bundestag, a good organiser and a consummate manipulator.

The path of this butcher's son to the summit of German politics is astounding. A former book salesman, taxi-driver and part-time revolutionary, Mr Fischer spent his youth in the radical leftist movement in the Sixties. Disillusioned with violence, he joined the fledgling Green movement, where he

quickly emerged as a realist. He has served as Justice Minister in the regional government of Hesse, and is almost universally regarded as the most capable potential minister of his party.

If the coalition talks succeed, Mr Fischer is expected to become Vice-Chancellor, and possibly a foreign minister. The prospect of Mr Fischer addressing the United Nations on Germany's behalf frightens even some of his own members.

The key role in the coalition discussions will be played by Jürgen Trittin, the Greens' national spokesman.

Mr Trittin, 44, plays an uneasy balancing role between the left and the pragmatists of his party. An even more difficult task awaits him now: building a bridge between two parties and two almost irreconcilable sets of leftist politics.

If he succeeds, his reward will be a government job, possibly the ecologically hot seat in the transport ministry.

Doris prepares for life out of the limelight

BY IMRE KARACS
in Bonn

SHE WAS by his side on Sunday night, stepping up for a rare appearance of the limelight as her husband milked the adulation. Doris Schröder-Köpf, Germany's First Lady, has not had much time to get used to her new role, and the country may need some time to become accustomed to her.

For one thing, she is one of the youngest wives to enter the

Chancellery, and unlike previous incumbents, she does not easily conform to the role expected of her.

Ms Köpf, 34, has been married to Mr Schröder for only a year. They were wed a few weeks after the politician got his divorce from his third wife,

Hiltrud. A divorced journalist who brought up her daughter, now aged seven, alone, the new First Lady might have become a role model for a generation of German women.

Asked yesterday if she had any political ambitions, Ms Köpf said that, unlike Hillary Clinton, she was not interested. "I have another profession. I am a journalist," she said.

But when Mr Schröder started campaigning in the summer, his wife decided to give up her job at a radio station and to concentrate on looking after the household. The Schröders live in a small attic flat in Hannover.

Despite her husband's campaign as a force for change, Ms Köpf so far fits the traditional German mold of the self-effac-

ing politician's wife, unlike Hiltrud, who was for ever spearheading causes and courting publicity.

Ms Köpf is intent on shielding herself and her daughter from prying eyes.

The family will not even be moving to Bonn. Ms Köpf will follow her husband to Berlin when he takes the government there next year.

Hurricane Georges: New Orleans is spared the worst, but more than 1.5 million are evacuated as the storm surges inland

Winds of 172mph lash the South

HURRICANE Georges swept ashore in Mississippi yesterday, its torrential rain and furious winds wreaking havoc along the coast. One of the largest evacuations in history took most of the population inland, but meteorologists said that the storm would take days to move out of the area.

BY ANDREW MARSHALL
in Washington

coastal towns and roads. More than 1.5 million people had been evacuated from the Gulf coast, "probably the largest evacuation we have ever achieved," said Lieutenant Colonel Ronnie Jones, of the Louisiana State Police.

The Gulf coast was devastated by Hurricane Elena in 1985. But afterwards, the tourism and gambling industries moved in in force, putting casinos and hotels up and down the coast. Mississippi's Governor, Kirk Fordice, said he had asked President Bill Clinton to declare an emergency, which would allow federal cash to be used to rebuild.

The hurricane cast a vast shadow over the region, with hurricane-force winds up to 75 miles from its centre and tropical storm-force winds 175 miles away. Hurricane warnings were in force from Morgan City, Louisiana, to Panama City in Florida. In Louisiana, power cuts affected 100,000, and in Florida beachfront houses were threatened by high tides. Storm surges left much of Mobile, Alabama, under water.

Forecasters say that after a period of relatively weak hurricane seasons, activity is picking up. Even as Georges was moving up towards the US mainland, meteorologists were tracking four others - the first time that four storms were in the same area at the same time. Some died away but last night Hurricane Jeanne was making its way across the Atlantic, heading for the Azores.

William Gray, the doyen of hurricane forecasters, predicted that 10 of this year's tropical storms would become hurricanes. "This year will be distinctly more active than last year, but not as active as the very busy seasons of 1995 and 1996," Professor Gray said.

The ebbing of El Niño, combined with weather conditions in North Africa, make this a busier season, but much worse may be to come, exacerbated by a period of heavy coastal development that has seen large numbers of Americans move to areas vulnerable to hurricanes.

"Georges is drifting toward the north-west and the core of the hurricane is expected to move further inland over southern Mississippi," the National Weather Service said. But it warned that Georges would be difficult to predict in detail, and could change course. "Do not focus on the precise location and track of the centre. The hurricane's destructive winds, rain, and storm surge cover a wide swath," it said.

Georges has already left a trail of devastation across the Caribbean, where it left hundreds dead in the Dominican Republic, Puerto Rico, Cuba, Haiti and St Kitts and Nevis. It tipped the edge of southern Florida, badly damaging the Florida Keys, but then turned north-west to the Gulf coast. It moved ashore early yesterday at Ocean Springs in Mississippi, between Biloxi and Pascagoula, moving east at the last moment to spare New Orleans the worst.

Gusts of wind up to 172mph were recorded at Keesler Air Force Base near Biloxi, and sustained winds of 105mph were doing serious damage up and down the coast. They blew the roof off an emergency shelter in Gauthier and ripped roofs and sidings off houses. Tornadoes, whipped up by the winds around the hurricane, caused heavy damage.

The rain that had already been falling along the coast intensified, with 20in in the Florida Panhandle and 10in in southern Alabama. The slow progress of Georges - it was inching along at 7mph, the speed of a jogger - meant that rain was expected to persist for days.

The surges produced by the storm were also bringing more water up the Mississippi delta, threatening the levees and flood defences of New Orleans. Tides were running 10 to 12 feet higher than normal, swamping



A boy braves waves crashing against Lake Pontchartrain seawall, near Bayou St John, Mississippi, as winds batter the coastline

AP/Times Picayune

Siege mentality keeps spirits up as curfew turns city into a ghost town

NEW ORLEANS breathed a sigh of relief yesterday as the city awoke to find Hurricane Georges had missed it and was instead bombarding the Gulf Coast in the neighbouring state of Mississippi.

The catchphrase that everyone was using was "we are not dropping our guard". In Britain, people would have talked about "not tempting fate", but in the bays of New Orleans, with their voodoo traditions, perhaps they did not want to offend whatever spirits had saved the city from the worst.

The police and local authorities were taking no chances. More than a million people from the city and surrounding Louisiana basin are still in the shelters and the curfew, imposed at 6pm on Sunday, had still not been lifted by late yesterday. No one was too bothered as the wind was gusting at 50mph through the empty streets of the French Quarter,

BY PHILIP THORNTON
in New Orleans

driving the heavy rain into horizontal sheets.

The roads were deserted except for the hobos wrapped in makeshift plastic raincoats, picking up empty cans and garbage for the recycling money, and the patrol cars enforcing the curfew. One police chief said that anyone caught sightseeing in a flooded area was breaking the law and would face a jail sentence.

Tens of thousands flocked to the city's nine shelters, including the Louisiana Superdome and the sprawling Ernest Morial Convention Center. The city had room to shelter 100,000 of its 450,000 people.

In the French Quarter, most of the bars on Bourbon Street were closed and covered with plywood. At least three establishments stayed open beyond the curfew, however, offering

drinks that included the aptly named "Hurricane" rum punch to a handful of stragglers.

At Deliquiri's Deltic Shop, Jill Zibkow, a lawyer from New York, drowned her sorrows with a Martini - a 2ft-tall deliquiri in a green alien-shaped glass. She had arrived in New Orleans on Friday night for her 30th birthday. "Gee-Off-gees," she said as she sat at the bar. "We're just learning how to say it now. You have to have a couple of these Martinis to say it properly."

Stranded in their homes, hotels and shelters, people formed a communion through the airwaves. Locals phoned the radio stations from parishes across the area to tell the presenter when they lost power, when they lost television and how strong they thought the wind was.

"Hey, I haven't had any power for two hours," said one caller. André, the presenter,

much to the caller's disappointment, replied: "Is that all? Some folks have been outed for two days." Yesterday in New Orleans, there was a oneupmanship in suffering.

As the stories began to pour in, a picture of the devastation took shape. New Orleans may have been let off relatively lightly but the suburbs near the swollen Mississippi river have suffered flooding and the floating homes and restaurants have been badly damaged.

Some stories were heart-warming. At the Superdome in downtown New Orleans, a pregnant woman who was two weeks overdue gave birth alongside 10,000 other people who had taken shelter there.

Elsewhere, residents took pity on tourists stranded in their city. One Good Samaritan said: "We have been out looking for people to give what assistance we can. My brother-in-law is standing by with a truck to pick

them up so we can look after them. They can stay with us."

There were tragedies, too. One 86-year-old woman died on one of the evacuation buses while she was waiting for a shelter to find her a bed. Another man died after a fire broke out in his New Orleans home. The candles that he had bought to make up for the lost power started a fire and although he managed to wake up his housemate, who did escape, he was not so lucky.

In a poignant detail, it emerged that there was no back-up battery for his fire alarm, and that the weatherboarding on his home had impeded his escape.

But everyone knows it is the residents of Biloxi, Mississippi, and Mobile, Alabama, who have taken the brunt of Georges with reports of winds of up to 170mph. The one major complaint from residents was against the local power com-

pany, Entergy, which was variously accused of turning the power off for homes which were under an evacuation order even though the residents were still there, and for not repairing quickly enough those homes that had lost power because of the storm.

The one person to come out of this well is Nash Robert, the veteran hurricane expert with the local television station. Throughout the hurricane warning, Mr Nash hung to his belief the hurricane would miss the city of New Orleans.

One radio presenter told his audience: "Why do we bother having a national hurricane service when we have Nash Roberts. With all their trillions of dollars of equipment and their models, they still didn't get it right. But when Nash Roberts said at 11.32am on Sunday that the hurricane would hit Biloxi, I told my friends - the hurricane is going to hit Biloxi."

US aid reaches stricken Caribbean island

THE AMERICAN relief effort for the Dominican Republic gained momentum yesterday, as tons of bottled water and plastic sheeting were ferried in for thousands of struggling storm victims.

More than 200 people were killed, hundreds are missing and 100,000 were left homeless

when Hurricane Georges struck the Dominican Republic last week. Most of the victims died in flooding or mudslides.

At the weekend, the United States Agency for International Development said the hurricane death toll in the Dominican Republic "is almost certain to exceed 500".

The US has shipped \$500,000 (£303,000) worth of supplies, including enough plastic sheeting to re-roof 15,000 homes.

Helicopter crews were hoping to reach San Juan de la Maguana, 120 miles west of the capital, Santo Domingo, where 76 bodies were recovered on Thursday. Half the town was

under water or buried in mud.

In Cuba, where five people were killed in the storm and thousands left homeless, President Fidel Castro said the speedy evacuation of hundreds of thousands of people probably saved many more from dying during Georges' march across the island last Friday.

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LINE RANGE & HOVERCRAFT

Australia tunes in to Hanson rants

PAULINE HANSON, the populist Australian politician, interrupted her campaign for Saturday's general election yesterday to go to court to try to get a song about her banned. Outside the court she was confronted by Pauline Pantsdown, the song's creator, who has achieved almost as much notoriety as Mrs Hanson.

Before the election campaign, Pauline Pantsdown was Simon Hunt, a lecturer in sound and film at the College of Fine Arts in Sydney. He was so affronted by Mrs Hanson's attacks on Asian immigration and welfare spending on Aborigines that he decided to take her on.

His technique was satire, his ammunition Mrs Hanson's own words. Using her statements and some literary licence, he created a song called "I'm a Backdoor Man". It quickly became the most requested song on JJJ, the youth network of the Australian Broadcasting Corporation (ABC).

Mrs Hanson, leader of the One Nation party, did not like it. She took out an injunction to stop the ABC playing it. Yesterday the Supreme Court in Brisbane dismissed the ABC's appeal.

Mr Hunt was not deterred by the original injunction. With advice from Owen Trembath, a Sydney showbusiness lawyer, he put together another song, called "I Don't Like It".

It was released in late August and has since topped the charts, becoming something of a cult hit.

Mr Hunt performed the song

BY ROBERT MILLIKEN
in Sydney

as Pauline Pantsdown, a drag version of Mrs Hanson, to which he has changed his name by deed poll. He was legally obliged to do so because he is standing as Ms Pantsdown in the election for the Senate, the upper house of the federal parliament.

"I Don't Like It" has received no legal threats from Mrs Hanson. Its lyrics are all her words, although not always in the order she spoke them, and in her own voice, set to a pop beat. With a disclaimer on the CD's cover that the use of Pauline Hanson's voice is unauthorised, the song begins: "I don't like it when you turn my voice about. I don't like it, when you vote One Nation out. My language has been murdered, my shopping trolley murdered, my groceries just gone." She goes on: "Please explain, why can't my blood be coloured white? Coloured blood, it's just not right." And she ends: "I don't like anything, I can't do anything about it. No, the whole thing is wrong and it stinks and I don't like it."

Mrs Pantsdown claims to have spent 500 hours listening to Hanson speeches and splicing the lyrics. "In all those 500 hours I never heard her say anything positive. She represents a politics of complaint. She complains about immigrants, foreign companies and Aborigines getting help from the state. But she offers no solutions."

As for cutting up her words

to make new sentences, Ms Pantsdown says he has done nothing more than reflect Mrs Hanson herself. "She has about 200 sentences, and if she can't answer a question she'll take half from one and a bit from another. She's a manufactured speech computer. I see her as no more real than I am."

Ms Pantsdown's record has struck a blow for satire in an otherwise deadly earnest campaign dominated by the ruling conservative coalition and opposition Labor parties over taxation and unemployment.

"I Don't Like It" is particularly popular in rural areas, where One Nation has drawn much of its support.

Mrs Pantsdown is wary of taking credit for the fact that One Nation's opinion-poll support has declined to 6 per cent from double that since the record's release, or for the fact that Mrs Hanson is struggling to win her own Queensland constituency of Blair (named after Harold Blair, a famous Aboriginal singer). "I think Hanson's going to lose on Saturday," he says. "That's not good for my character continuing, but it's best for the greater good."

Most of Victoria is unlikely to have gas for a week after explosions crippled an Esso Australia plant. At the weekend the state cut all supplies except to hospitals after blasts ripped through part of the complex near the town of Sale, killing two men and injuring eight.

Esso said it was too early to say what caused the explosions and too early to predict when gas would begin flowing again.



Pauline Hanson after a Brisbane court upheld a ban on a satirical song about her. However, the writer had another ditty ready

Reuters

Middle classes suffer in Hong Kong crisis

HONG KONG'S middle classes, whose family budgets are being seriously affected by the region's economic crisis, should be allowed to cut the pay of their housemaids by 20 per cent, says a prominent councillor.

This ingenious solution to the former colony's economic plight comes from Jennifer Chow, a pro-Peking councillor. Ms Chow has written to the government suggesting that the legal minimum wage of Hong Kong's small army of Filipino, Thai, Indonesian and Sri Lankan domestic helpers should be cut.

"We need to face reality," said Mrs Chow. "The reality is that the economic downturn is a long one."

She warned that without a pay cut on the part of the servants, some families might

BY STEPHEN VINES
in Hong Kong

have to contemplate the appalling prospect of life without domestic help altogether.

Her proposal has been put to the government, which says it is studying a revision of the fixed wages for foreign domestic helpers.

Their minimum wage is HK\$3,860 (almost £300 a month) plus board and lodging.

"We are the lowest-paid workers in Hong Kong," said Connie Regalado, the chairwoman of the United Filipinos in Hong Kong organisation, "It's already unjust."

She added: "We didn't create the crisis in Asia, so why should migrant workers carry the crisis?"

Other workers in Hong Kong are also facing pay cuts, and the government is urging local women who have hitherto shunned domestic employment to take up jobs as domestic helpers. This places the foreign workers in a difficult position.

The large number of overseas maids working in Hong Kong, estimated at about 250,000 in a total population of 6.8 million, has liberated an unusually high number of women to work full time in the professions.

If Mrs Chow's proposal is accepted, these fortunate women will be able to continue in full-time employment, while paying less for the privilege of having someone to do their housework and cooking.

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Breakthrough in sight for Palestine

ISRAEL AND Palestine edged back towards a peace deal yesterday, raising hopes that a comprehensive agreement may be only weeks away. Yasser Arafat and Benjamin Netanyahu met at the White House for talks that ended an 18-month stalemate, and a special summit that could herald a new Palestinian state was set for next month.

"We have made progress on the path of peace," said President Bill Clinton after the meeting. "There has been a significant narrowing of the gaps between the two parties." He said that a summit would follow in mid-October in Washington, where it was hoped that a package could be tied up. "There is still a substantial amount of work to do until a comprehensive agreement can be reached," he admitted. But, he added, "we could finish it in mid-October, and I hope we do."

BY ANDREW MARSHALL
in Washington

Both America's Middle East negotiator, Dennis Ross, and the Secretary of State, Madeleine Albright, will return to the region to prepare for the October summit. It will involve a meeting over several days, with key officials and advisers from both camps in Washington. If the President manages to get an agreement, it will do him a lot of good in the region and in America at a time when his international image needs burnishing.

The mini-summit was intended to break the deadlock that has prevailed since Israel began building in east Jerusalem 18 months ago, plunging the region into gloom. The key issue was the withdrawal of Israeli troops from those remaining areas of the oc-

cupied West Bank that they control, and security guarantees from Palestinian authorities in return.

The deal is expected to involve Israeli withdrawal from 13 per cent of the occupied West Bank, but with part of that - perhaps a quarter - held as a "nature reserve", one that would be patrolled by Israeli security forces and where Palestinian settlement would be ruled out.

Though it would be a great deal less than was held out by the Oslo Accords, the agreement would at least break the deadlock and allow some hope that a further and more comprehensive package was feasible.

The meeting was also intended to pre-empt a speech by the Palestinian President to the United Nations General Assembly yesterday in which he was expected to say that Pales-

tine would declare statehood next May if there was no progress. Under the Oslo accords, May is the deadline for negotiations on the final phase of peace talks.

The US has been heavily criticised for failing to apply more pressure on Israel, which has dragged its feet on peace since Mr Netanyahu was elected Prime Minister. But over the weekend Ms Albright, met with Mr Arafat and Mr Netanyahu to see whether further progress was possible.

Mr Netanyahu had been invited to Washington yesterday, but the arrival of Mr Arafat as well showed that all sides thought there might be some increased room for manoeuvre. It was the first time that both had been at the White House since January, when the President's problems with Monica Lewinsky first emerged.



Israeli police forcibly remove Jewish settlers from the Arab market in the West Bank town of Hebron yesterday AP

FBI targets East Europe's mafia bosses

THE FBI has set up a task force in eastern Europe to fight the international mafias that threaten to destabilise post-Communist governments, and to prevent the gangs spreading west to the European Union.

Based in Budapest, Hungary, the international force will investigate alleged corruption in the financial networks run by former Communist party officials, which are suspected of laundering the vast profits criminals make from drug smuggling and other rackets.

"The biggest threat to the emerging democracies is money-laundering, and the black markets there. If those economies start failing it could lead to a non-democratic government which would not be friendly to the West," said one FBI official.

The task force, composed of dozens of FBI and other law enforcement agents, will have an initial funding of several hundred thousand dollars, but will reach a "multi-million dollar commitment", said Peter Tufo, US ambassador to Hungary. "This is a joint strike force which is intended to assist in the prosecution and trial of organised crime groups."

Five East European countries - Hungary, Poland, the Czech Republic, Slovenia and Estonia - are front-runners for European Union membership, early in the next millennium.

All five countries contain organised crime gangs linked to former Soviet states. The nightmare scenario for the West is that the five's accession to the EU will provide the Russian mafia with a foothold in the EU's economy.

"There have been links between crime and government corruption. Organised crime

BY ADAM LEBOR
in Budapest

is growing and it is difficult to see anything other than more growth. These governments need to tackle it, and tackle it hard," said one Western official.

In Hungary, officials have been implicated in a series of scandals concerning subsidised heating oil, and questionable financial practices at several national banks including Postabank, which posted a 13 billion forints (£37m) loss last year and has now been taken over by the government.

The difficulties of persuading governments to tackle organised crime when some of their own officials may be implicated was highlighted at the launch of the FBI taskforce.

Mr Tufo was reported as saying: "Organised crime has penetrated the Hungarian government to some extent." But Hungarian government officials denied the claim.

The Hungarian capital is home to more than a dozen rival mafias, which run lucrative networks in drugs and weapon smuggling, prostitution, money-laundering and the illegal movement of refugees out of the developing world and into the West.

US officials fear that organised crime networks which use Budapest and other eastern European capitals as their base are also penetrating the United States economy.

The poorly paid and equipped police of eastern Europe are no match for the criminals, who model their organisations on multinational corporations. Many of their crimes, such as the white-slave sex trade and money laundering, were unknown under Communism.

IN BRIEF

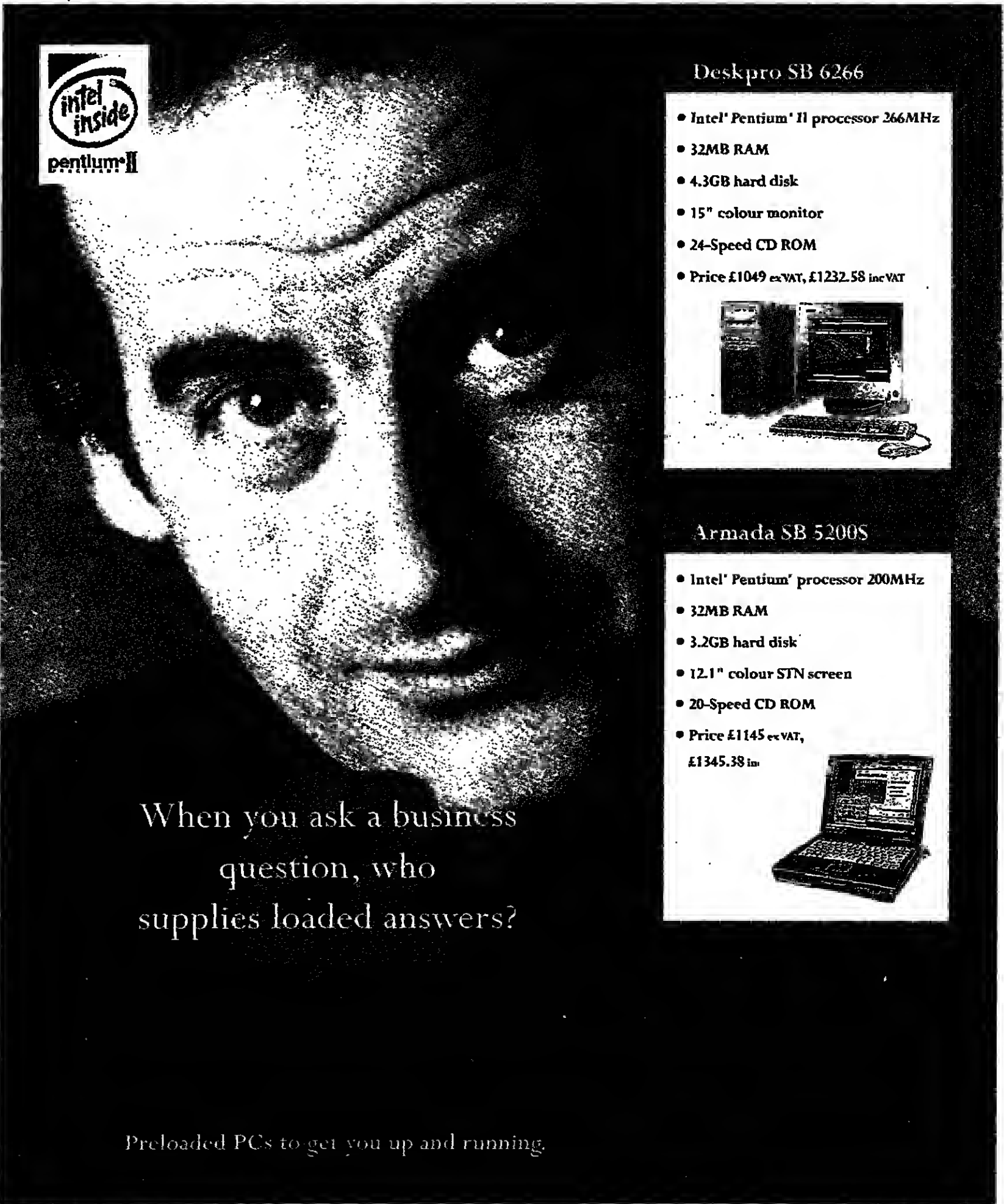

Serbs claim victory in Kosovo
SERBIA CLAIMED victory over ethnic Albanian separatists in Kosovo yesterday and said its forces would return to barracks, but Albanian sources warned that the Serbs' offensive was not over. The announcement followed Serb attacks on villages south of Pristina, the Kosovo capital, which saw homes burning and civilians fleeing under artillery bombardments.

Le Pen appeals against ban
JEAN-MARIE Le Pen, leader of France's far-right National Front, appealed in a Versailles court against a sentence to two years' ineligibility for public office and a suspended three months in prison. Mr Le Pen was found guilty in April of assaulting a female Socialist politician during the 1997 general election campaign.

Amnesty for Russian prisoners
THE RUSSIAN Justice Ministry said it planned to give amnesty to about 115,000 prisoners to ease prison overcrowding. The proposed amnesty would not apply to those facing murder charges. About a million people are in prison, including 300,000 awaiting verdicts.

Dozens held in Malaysian protest
MALAYSIAN RIOT police arrested dozens of protesters while breaking up an anti-government demonstration in Kuala Lumpur. Thousands of protesters called for the Prime Minister, Mahathir Mohamad, to step down, and shouted support for the detained dissident Anwar Ibrahim.

Slovakia set for coalition rule
LEADERS OF Slovakia's four main opposition parties are discussing the formation of a coalition government, after Prime Minister Vladimir Meciar's party lost its position as the single biggest party in Parliament. The opposition parties won 93 of the 150 parliamentary seats.



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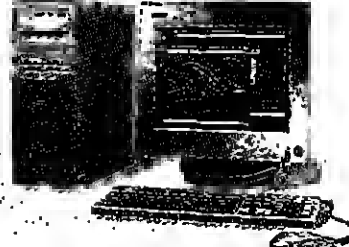
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Taliban split over Bin Laden

TENSIONS ARE emerging among factions of the Taliban government in Afghanistan over the future of Osama bin Laden, the Saudi-born millionaire who has been given refuge by the hardline Islamic militia.

Senior Taliban officials have admitted for the first time that the presence in Afghanistan of Mr bin Laden, accused of masterminding the bombings of the American embassies in Kenya and Tanzania, is a problem.

Conservative elements of the government, those close to Mullah Omar, the spiritual leader of the Taliban, still say Mr bin Laden is a "guest" who will be defended to "the last drop of Afghan blood".

The difference of opinion in the senior ranks of the Taliban raises the prospect of Mr bin Laden being asked to leave the country.

Last week, Saudi Arabia withdrew its diplomatic representa-

BY JASON BURKE
in Kabul

tion in Kabul and ordered the Taliban chargé d'affaires to leave Riyadh. The Taliban believe, probably correctly, this was linked to Mr bin Laden's continued presence in their country. The Saudis believe that Mr bin Laden, who was stripped of his Saudi citizenship in 1994 after being expelled three years earlier for agitating against the regime, was behind the US embassy bombings last month, as well as attacks in Saudi.

Saudi Arabia is one of only three countries to have recognised the Taliban as the legitimate government of Afghanistan. Earlier it provided massive financial support for the religious movement.

The Taliban believe that the Saudis are acting under pressure from the US. "They have been told to do it by the Americans," said Mullah Mohammed

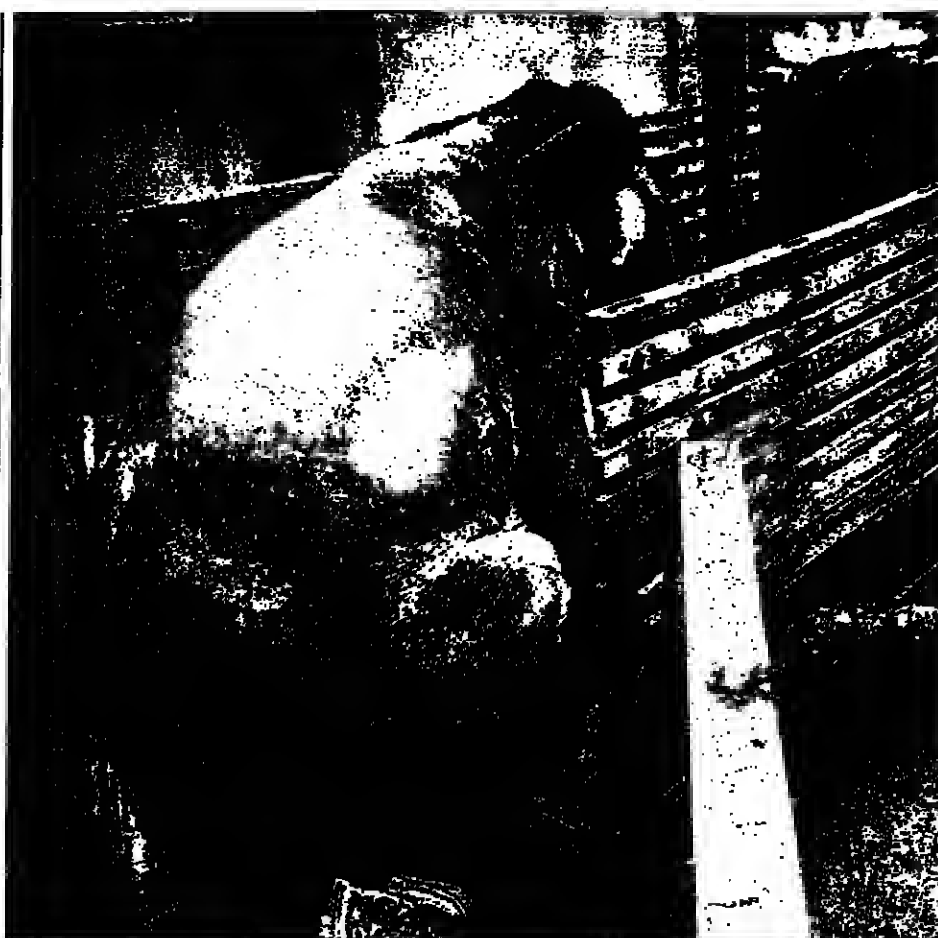
Haqsa, deputy interior minister.

Some senior Taliban, particularly those who recognise the need for the regime to improve its image overseas, are beginning to distance themselves from Mr bin Laden.

The Americans are keen to bring him to trial and it is thought Washington would offer diplomatic concessions in return for his extradition.

Maulvi Mohammed Nabi Mohammedi, an influential cleric backed by a number of Taliban ministers, described Mr bin Laden's presence in Afghanistan as "a problem inherited from earlier regimes".

And although few Taliban will admit it, they have been rattled by the Saudis' decision to pull out their diplomats. Saudi money has been crucial to the Taliban advance, allowing them to buy out opposition commanders. It is not clear if the Saudis have cut off, or plan to restrict, the funding.



A female elephant begins her journey from Bangkok, Thailand, to the rural area of Surin. Three attempts failed after drivers allegedly took bribes to return her to Bangkok, where her owner can make more money from tourists. Reuters

Russians lap up apocalypse flood theory

CITY LIFE
MOSCOW

RUSSIA'S economic crash - not to mention the Monica Lewinsky affair and other crises of contemporary life - will pale into insignificance if there is any truth in an end-of-the-world scenario being put forward by two Russian scientists.

Theoretical Geography or Imminent Disaster, by Anatoly Votyakov and his son Alexei, is a learned text, with maps and diagrams, which sold out within hours of appearing in Moscow book shops this autumn.

Russians often comfort themselves by saying "byoguet iduzhe" (it could be worse). Crisis-stricken readers were attracted and appalled in equal measure by the authors' prediction that on top of economic meltdown, the world is soon to see a repeat of the biblical deluge.

The reason for this was simple, as explained to me by Dr Votyakov Sr, a bearded sage who would be perfect for the role of Noah. Despite global warming, he said, ice was building up at the polar caps. As a result, there would come a point when the Earth's crust would have to rearrange itself to distribute the weight more harmoniously.

"Once the ice exceeds a certain limit, a catastrophe will occur, a real deluge," he said. This, he added, had happened many times before in the Earth's four-and-a-half-billion-year history.

The proof, according to Dr Votyakov, who graduated in mathematics from the Ural University, then worked in a Moscow institute attached to the Academy of Sciences, was that if you looked carefully at the globe, you could see chains of mountains that followed the lines of former equators.

Other evidence came from geology and palaeontology. Studies from eastern Siberia showed that down in the permafrost there were layers of birch wood, 9,300, 26,600 and 31,800 years old.

That meant that in previous ages the area must have been warm. Remains of mammoths had been found with freshly swallowed grasses in their digestive tracts. Therefore they did not die of cold or hunger, but as a result of a sudden cataclysm.

Dr Votyakov and Alexei, both Orthodox Christians, note in their book that Nostradamus, the 16th-century



Anatoly Votyakov: Sees a grim future. Golsteyn

French astrologer predicted the end of the world in 1999. "It was the only time he gave a specific date," said Dr Votyakov. Modern Russians seem to go further and set the date for 19 July 1999.

Dr Votyakov's other son, Alexander, a metal trader whose firm paid for the publication of the book, joked that he was thinking of bringing out a calendar marked with this red-letter day.

"The process will begin when Greenland starts slipping towards the equator," Dr Votyakov said. "The first result of this will be that a huge tidal wave hits the east coast of America, making clear to everyone the total irrelevance of the dollar."

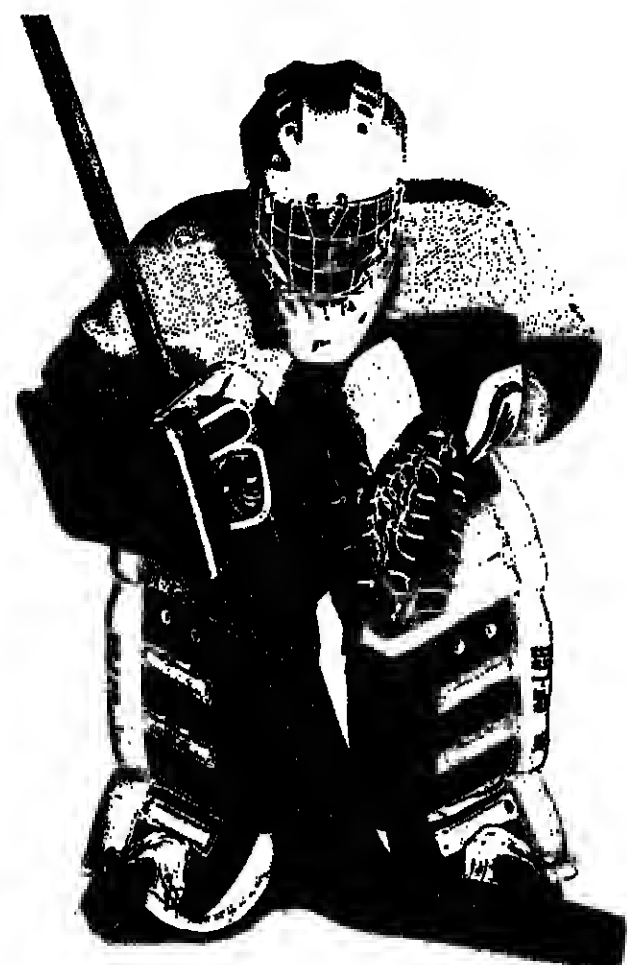
Initially, the English Channel would recede and there could be a land path to France. But, later, Britain would be submerged along with the low-lying parts of Europe. Severe cold would render Japan and China uninhabitable.

Doomed cities include Montreal, Toronto, Rome, Paris and, of course, London. An option for Britons might be to flee to Norway, which is expected to survive. Muscovites will have a chance if they abandon their city for eastern Siberia, which is expected to enjoy a warm spell.

"I am not trying to sow panic," Dr Votyakov said. "It is just that people should know what awaits them."

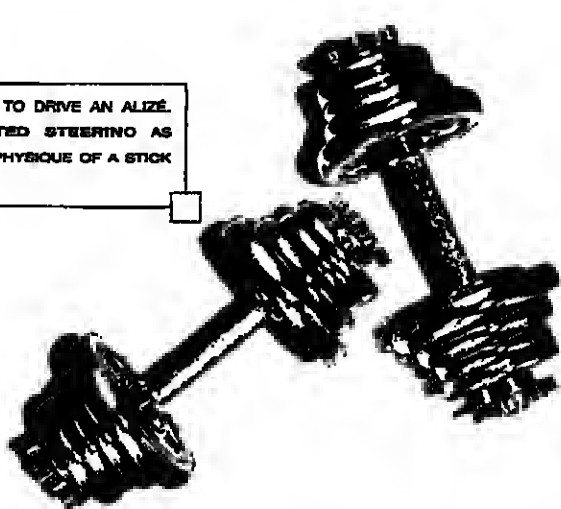
Dr Votyakov rejects the role of Noah, saying he is too old to lead the survivors on the rearranged planet. Since General Alexander Lebed is already established in Krasnoyarsk, Siberia, perhaps he is better placed to take the job.

HELEN WOMACK



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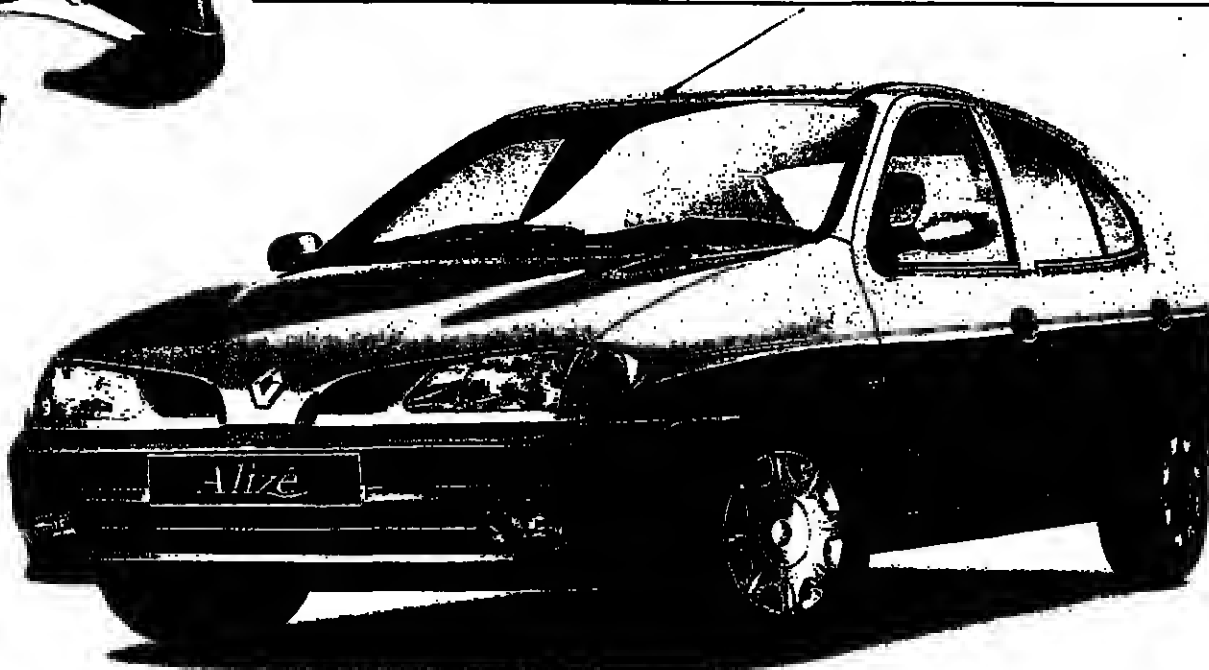


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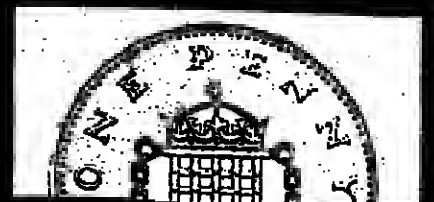
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BUSINESS

City jobs gloom as Merrill cuts costs by £150 million

BRIEFING

Trade deficit widens to £300m

BRITAIN'S TRADE deficit with the rest of the world widened slightly in July to £300m against £200m in June, with a slowdown in business with Russia adding to woes caused by the strong pound and weak demand from Asia. Goods exports fell 1 per cent during July to £13.8bn while imports were stable at £15.2bn. But the widening trade deficit in goods during July was partly offset by trade in services where exports were stable. The balance of trade in the services showed a surplus of £1.1bn in July unchanged over the previous month.

PowerGen chief cashes in options

ED WALLIS (left), chairman of the privatised electricity generator PowerGen, cashed in options worth over £350,000 yesterday, according to a statement released to the Stock Exchange. It said Wallis sold 54,000 options priced at £2.21 for £2.70.

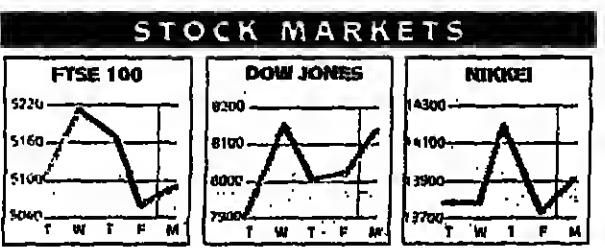
PowerGen, Britain's second largest non-nuclear generator, won government approval last week for its £1.9bn bid for electricity supplier East Midlands from Dominion Resources of the US.

A row over levels of pay for the heads of Britain's privatised utilities has been simmering over the summer between industry and the government, fiercely critical in opposition of so-called "fat cat" directors.

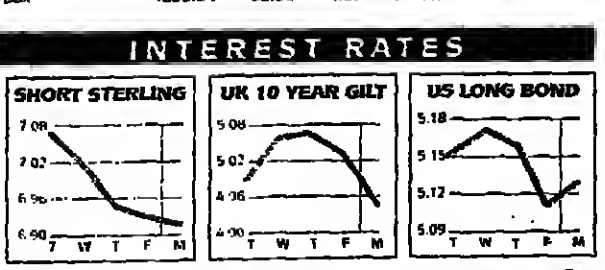
King's Cross rail plan backed

RAILTRACK'S involvement in the rescue plan for the Channel Tunnel Rail Link was approved overwhelmingly yesterday by the track and signalling group's investors. Railtrack has agreed an option to buy the development rights for the land around London's King Cross and Stratford stations with London & Continental Railways, the consortium behind the rail link.

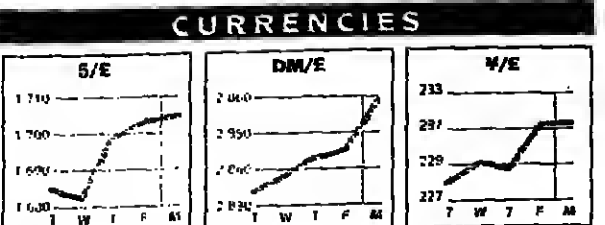
In a deal announced by John Prescott, Deputy Prime Minister, in June, Railtrack will build and buy the first phase of the 68-mile high-speed link between London and Folkestone. The link will not be completed until 2007. The option on the London stations will only be exercisable if Railtrack also buys the second phase of the project.



Source: Reuters



Source: Reuters



Source: Reuters

Source: Bloomberg

Source: Bloomberg

MERRILL LYNCH cancelled its Christmas party and warned of bonus cuts yesterday as part of a drive to save £150m a year because of the market turmoil that has slashed the earnings of City investment banks.

City gloom deepened as Daiwa Securities, which has lost nearly \$1bn worldwide this year, issued P45s to 50 redundant staff, marking its second round of cuts this year.

In August the bank shed around 65 staff, or around 10 per cent of the total.

Staff at Daiwa were notified individually yesterday about

BY ANDREW GARFIELD AND JOHN WILLCOCK

the job terminations. A spokeswoman said last night that a formal statement confirming the redundancies will be made today, but dismissed a rumoured figure of 400 job losses as "ridiculously high".

Merrill Lynch, meanwhile, has yet to decide on how many of its 6,000 City-based staff jobs will be cut. But staff have been ordered to cut back on transport and entertaining spending by not flying first class, and by clearing expense account lunches in advance.

The latest cutbacks came just days after Banco Santander, the Spanish bank which took on the research arm of crashed Hong-Kong broker Peregrine earlier this year, announced 300 jobs were going in its investment banking offices in London, Hong Kong and New York.

On Friday West Deutsche Landesbank said it would renege its London-based emerging markets business at a likely cost of 150-200 jobs.

In July, Nikko put 400 staff in the City on six months notice because of duplication with research teams at Salomon Smith Barney, although as many as 100 may have already found jobs elsewhere.

Salomon Smith Barney and Donaldson Lufkin Jenrette are operating unofficial hiring freezes.

Other houses which are planning to cut costs include Barclays Capital, which lost £250m in Russia; Salomon, whose parent Travellers is planning to cut 8,000 jobs worldwide through its merger with Citicorp; ING Barings and Credit Suisse First Boston which have also lost significant sums in emerging markets over recent weeks.

There are also question marks over new office space being built by banks to house staff which will probably not now be needed.

Daiwa has cancelled plans to move to new City headquarters in Wood Street, while the construction of Deutsche Bank's new London offices is believed to have slipped behind timetable.

Wall Street, too, has become increasingly nervous about the jobs outlook after several years of unprecedented expansion.

It emerged yesterday that the co-chief executive and

chief operating officers of Nomura America Holding had tendered their resignation late on Friday. It followed the disclosure last week that the Japanese parent had had to put in around \$500m new money to its US subsidiary after it lost \$275m mainly on mortgage backed bonds.

The pair - William Wraith, 41, and Mark McGauley, 35 - were said to have been paid \$100m apiece over the last four years.

They are believed to be the highest profile casualties in the US securities industry so far.



Bernie Ecclestone (right) will remain chief executive of the Formula One board before and after the float

\$2bn bond raises flag on F1 float

THE FLOTATION of Formula One was back on the starting grid yesterday when the motor racing company announced a \$2bn Eurobond issue as a prelude to a stock market listing.

The move comes more than a year after Formula One abandoned plans for a £2bn flotation following disagreements with some of the top racing teams that compete in the Grand Prix.

A Formula One company spokesman said yesterday that a new agreement had been signed last year with the teams that would run until 2007.

The plan is to float the business "as soon as is practicable"

BY NIGEL COPE Associate City Editor

which is likely to be in two to three years. "We see the bond offering as a very sensible way of paying the way for a stock market listing. It gives the City the chance to get to know the company, and the company the chance to get to know the City," the spokesman said.

The company was confident that there would be sufficient institutional appetite for the bonds despite volatile stock markets. Its advisers felt that bonds were currently more attractive than equity, and that

Formula One's bonds would be backed by secure cash flow from its television deals.

Formula One is making changes to its board, which is currently dominated by Bernie Ecclestone, the motor racing entrepreneur whose family trust controls the entire company. He will remain as chief executive both before and after the float.

Helmut Werner, the former chairman of Daimler Benz, is joining Formula One as non-executive chairman. Marco Piccini, a banker who used to run the Ferrari Grand Prix team, will be a non-executive director.

Formula One said Mr Ecclestone was not a direct shareholder or beneficiary in the trust. The main beneficiaries were his wife and children as a result of changes made for inheritance tax purposes.

The company has jettisoned Salomon Smith Barney, which advised on the previous float attempt. It has now hired Morgan Stanley which will start marketing the bonds in the next few days.

The company said it was confident that Formula One could make the transition from an entrepreneurial company not used to disclosing information, to a more transparent publicly quoted entity. The company is also confident that the City will accept Mr Ecclestone as a chief executive.

Formula One said yesterday that it is "committed to free to air" television coverage of its events. However, it is looking to develop pay-per-view free coverage, but would offer "added value" elements such as "in car cameras", pit lane coverage, and no advertising breaks.

Formula One's viewing audience has grown rapidly in the last few years. The company feels there is scope for expansion into China, Africa and the US.

WH Smith prepares to fight superstores

WH SMITH is looking at developing a new superstore format to fight back against the invasion of American giants such as Borders.

WH Smith is considering opening 20 to 25 superstores that would offer wider ranges of books, stationery, newspapers and magazines. The stores would also feature a "lifestyle" element with coffee shops, seating areas and interactive media to enable ordering via the internet. Listening booths for audio books may be included.

BY NIGEL COPE

The company said it is considering converting its largest stores of around 20,000 square feet to the superstore format.

Many of WH Smith's largest stores have spare floors that are not used as retail space. There is also scope to expand into areas currently used for warehousing. However, the company is also looking at opening some new, larger stores of 30,000-35,000 square feet on selected high streets.

WH Smith's management is examining how best to utilise the extra space in larger stores and whether the format can make money. It has not yet made a decision to press ahead but is aware of a gathering momentum in superstore retailing.

The move has been prompted by the sudden dash for growth by rivals such as Waterstone's and Borders, the US book and music retailer. Waterstone's, which was sold by WH Smith earlier this year to a consortium led by Tim Water-

stone, opened its first book superstore in Glasgow last autumn.

Waterstone's is re-launching its Manchester branch as a superstore in November and thinks there may be room for 20. Borders, which operates huge 40,000 square foot superstores, opened its first UK outlet on London's Oxford Street in August and a second store in Brighton earlier this month. The US group has announced plans for another four.

WH Smith is worried that it

could get left behind if these stores start to attract more customers. It is possible that WH Smith could start testing a superstore format next year. Analysts said it was not surprising that WH Smith should experiment with larger stores. However, they said it should be careful not to alienate its core customer base. Many of its shoppers do not like stores such as HMV, Virgin or Waterstone's because they are too large with a product range that is too wide.

Birmingham Midshires has 112 branches and around 2,200 staff. In the first half of 1998, it posted a 22 per cent rise in underlying profits, boosted by a strong rise in mortgage business.

A spokesman for Halifax said yesterday that the bank was "pleased" with Mr Mandelson's decision.

He added that the society did not expect the takeover to be blocked on competition grounds.

AROUND THE WORLD'S MARKETS

LONDON

SHARES MADE modest progress with Footsie closing 32.5 points higher at 5,093.5. Turnover was again more than one billion shares. The mid-cap index made headway but once again small-cap shares were deep in the dumps with their index hitting a new low for the year. Mobile phone shares weakened on worries the industry regulator plans to get tough. Vodafone led the retreat, falling 27p to 68p. At one time the shares were down 42p.

Derek Pain, page 21

NEW YORK

SHARE PRICES had risen sharply by late morning as hopes mounted for a cut in US short-term interest rates at today's Federal Open Market Committee meeting, dealers said. By the time European bourses closed, the benchmark Dow Jones Industrials Average was up 98.66 at 8,127.4. McDonald's rose after announcing a \$3.5bn share buy-back and saying it expects to meet investors' expectations for the third quarter.

TOKYO

SHARE PRICES closed broadly higher, buoyed by public fund buying and window-dressing ahead of the end-month book closing, with the Nikkei 225 ending up 185.53 points, at 13,909.37, after a 3.39 per cent fall on Friday. Tokai and Asahi banks detailed plans to combine, forming Japan's second-largest financial group with over ¥61 trillion yen (\$451bn) in assets, while concerns mounted about credit risks as Long-Term Credit Bank's affiliate, Japan Leasing Corp, filed for bankruptcy.

HONG KONG

THE BENCHMARK Hang Seng index led gains across Asia, rising 244.43 points, or 3.2 per cent, to 7,846.04 on expectations of a 25 basis point cut in US rates today. HSBC Holdings, parent of the city's two largest lenders, rose 3.9 per cent as traders expected it to benefit from a rate cut. The government intervened in futures, buying the September contract ahead of its expiry today in a bid to force hedge funds to close any short positions.

FRANKFURT

GERMAN STOCKS see-sawed as the Social Democrats (SPD) election victory over former chancellor Helmut Kohl added to market volatility. But a stronger start on Wall Street carried most shares into positive ground, although German utilities remained weak on fears of higher taxes from a SPD/Green Party alliance. The electronic Xetra DAX index closed more than 2 per cent higher at 4,677.56. Analysts said a strong impact from the alliance was unlikely.



Manchester United's store at Old Trafford: the company is joining forces with other retailing groups to help it expand world-wide

Manchester United to open 150 stores

MANCHESTER UNITED, which has accepted a £223m takeover bid by British Sky Broadcasting, is planning to open 150 stores around the world over the next three years in an attempt to cash in on its large international supporter base.

By PETER THAL LARSEN

The company has linked up with Nuance Global Traders, a subsidiary of Swissair, to put Manchester United shops in airports. The first will open in Dublin airport next month. Stores in Copenhagen and Hong

Kong are planned for next year. Peter Kenyon, Manchester United's deputy chief executive, said the football club was planning to join forces with other retailing groups to help it expand. It is targeting Ireland, Scandinavia and the Far East as its key markets.

He added that the stores would require "some fresh investment" from Manchester United but that the club was mostly leading its brand to the stores. The club is planning three different retail formats: a large megastore, a smaller stand-alone store, and a compact format that would fit inside other shops.

Manchester United yesterday reported a sharp drop in profits as a result of heavy transfer spending over the summer. In the 12 months to July, profits fell to £14.1m from £27.6m in the previous year.

Back to basics for the market value pundits



HAMISH MCRAE

People are relying on borrowing or a rise in their asset values to sustain demand

IT WAS "phew!" time yesterday as bankers around the world began to contemplate what might have happened had the American authorities not cobbled together the deal to support John Meriwether's hedge fund last week.

We are not through the woods yet by any means, so expect a series of disturbing announcements from financial institutions about losses they have sustained.

Losses will stem not just from banks' loans to Long-Term Capital Management, but from the fact other banks were pursuing similar investment policies themselves. That is certainly what the plunge in bank share prices would lead us to expect.

It is impossible to say, but there may need to be rescues. However, unless there is something truly dreadful still hidden, we should be prepared now for the focus of concern to change.

Expect two new developments. First, people will ponder why the US authorities had allowed the financial system to become so fragile. We all knew the Japanese banking system was fragile, but the American?

Secondly, they will become increasingly concerned about the way in which financial instability feeds back into the real economy.

On the first, there is not much that can be added at this stage. You cannot assess sensibly the regulatory failure until you know the full extent of the damage, and we won't for several months.

The second - the link between markets and the US economy - will become a live issue very fast. The US consumer has been the main engine of world growth through the last 12 months, even more than Europe, for continental European growth has been largely driven by exports, not home consumption.

Further, we cannot assume that continental Europe's recovery will be sustained. It will have to adapt to meet the demand of the one-size-fits-all monetary policy, which will be imposed by the new European Central Bank in three months. It would be surprising if the policy tended toward the looser end of the possible range.

So US consumers are very important. This week sees new information about the health of the economy in the shape of consumer confidence, the US purchasing managers survey, and unemployment. These are expected to be weak, though not in any dramatic way. A fall in demand would be really troubling because consumers feel poorer as a result

of the decline in the stock market.

PDFM have highlighted the link between share prices and demand. Bill Martin, the chief economist, points out that the private sector's cash flow has gone negative for the first time since the early 1950s. In other words, people are relying on borrowing, or the rise in value of their assets, to sustain demand.

What happens if share prices fall? Well, the possible impact is shown in the chart: a dip of about 5 per cent in GDP from where it would have been otherwise, with the trough about 18 months from the time of the collapse.

Interestingly it doesn't seem to make an enormous amount of difference whether monetary policy leans against the fall in prices, or ignores it. As the graph shows, in the face of a sharp market decline monetary policy is pretty marginal.

This is simply a computer prediction, and like all models, what comes out depends on what you put in. But clearly, if consumers have been relying on their accounts with investment banks to fund their spending, any fall in the market will have an immediate impact on this reliance.

Is a halving of US share prices realistic? Of course, no one can know. It is interesting, though, to note that the shares of some stocks have indeed halved in the few short weeks since the peak in July. By and large it has been the second-division stocks that

have fallen most, so the big-share indexes like the Dow (or for that matter the Footsie) have been less affected. But there is no law that holds that the shares of large companies cannot halve. That happened to the shares of Barclays Bank, a perfectly sound business, but one which has suddenly become rather unfashionable.

PDFM have made themselves unpopular by being among the most bearish on the US market. For a long time, they were declaring it over-valued and every rise made them look more exposed. They were too early, of course, but now they are in the sun - the people who saw through the hype and correctly forecast the present decline. They believe there is lot more disappointment to come.

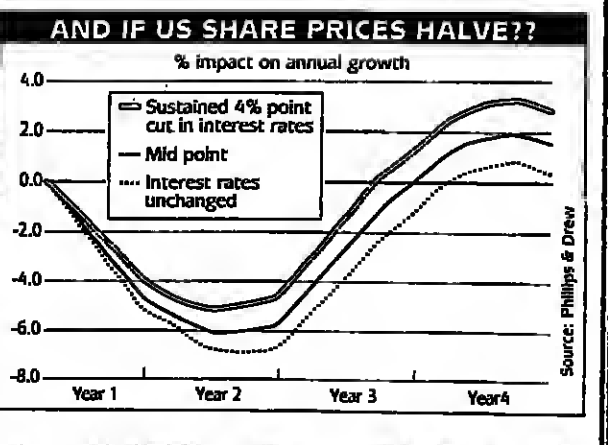
The difficulty is that really we do not know what measures to use, for you can construct measures which show that shares are still cheap - this applies both to London and to Wall Street. Thus if you look at the ratio between the yield on long-term bonds and the dividend yield of equities, you can claim that shares are still quite cheap. Bond yields have fallen so much that they have underpinned the decline in equity yields.

If, on the other hand, you use a price/earnings ratio, then shares are desperately expensive. At the peak, the UK p/e was about 22, at the very top end of its long-term range, and the dividend yield was 2.9 per cent, at the bottom of its range. The US figures were 29 and 1.5 per cent, both of which felt extraordinarily high. PDFM said so loudly at the time.

The tough question now is whether the subsequent declines of about 20 per cent bring these values sufficiently into line.

My own view is that they don't, and that we are entering into a period where investment managers will go back to basics: fundamental, long-term analysis of cyclical trends.

Take a view that this is one business cycle just like all the others and both shares and the world economy have some way to fall.



Wassall poised to acquire TLG as US rival quits race

By FRANCESCO GUERRERA

WASSALL, the mini conglomerate, yesterday claimed victory in the battle for control of TLG, the lighting group, after rival bidder Cooper Industries of the US pulled out of the race.

Houston-based Cooper yesterday said it would not increase its £321m offer for the British group, prompting the board of TLG, Europe's second-largest lighting fitter, to recommend Wassall's £351m bid.

John Riley, the chief executive of Cooper, said: "We have decided that a higher bid for TLG would not provide the return we expect for our shareholders."

The US group had been under pressure to increase its bid since the beginning of this

month when Wassall trumped its original 160p-per share offer with a 175p-per share bid. Wassall coupled the approach with an aggressive programme of market purchases of TLG shares that left it with more than 25.5 per cent of the company's capital, well above the 8 per cent acquired by Cooper. The end to the bid battle sent TLG shares plummeting more than 6 per cent to 171.5p. Wassall shares dropped 11p to 226.5p.

Christopher Miller, the Wassall chief executive, said it was "delighted" at Cooper's withdrawal and said the US company's decision made a Wassall

victory "very likely". He said there were "no immediate plans" to cut jobs among TLG's 4,000 staff. The priority would be to increase TLG's return on sales to the level of its European competitors. He said he wanted to raise TLG's returns from the current 7 per cent to the 12 per cent posted by Dutch electronics giant Philips, the European market leader.

TLG was spun off from the music group Thorn EMI via a management buyout and floated on the market in November 1994 at 115p. The shares have been underperforming the sector over the past year as overcapacity in the lighting industry reined in earnings.

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|------------------------------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|---------------|----------|----------|
| Name | Turnover (£) | Pre-tax (£) | EPS | Dividend | Pay day | X-ov |
| Alfred London Pops (F) | - | 16.1m (12.03m) | 15.5p (10.7p) | 2.85p (2.82p) | 0a | 0a |
| British Midland (F) | 1,580m (1,000m) | 1,311m (1,000m) | 2.55p (0.99p) | - | 0a | 0a |
| Cable News (F) | - | 68.6m (55.4m) | 37.5p (28.8p) | - | 0a | 0a |
| Community Vegetables (F) | 85.6m (75.5m) | 15.5m (14.4m) | 28.5p (20.7p) | 14.4p (12.5p) | 03.11.98 | 05.10.98 |
| Radio Shaver (F) | 47.5m (35.9m) | 4.77m (3.69m) | 6.15p (4.70p) | 2.10p (1.5p) | 27.11.98 | 03.10.98 |
| Capital & Investment (F) | - | 1.9m (1.55m) | 1.9m (1.55m) | 2.65p (2.40p) | 06.11.98 | 12.10.98 |
| Care Group (F) | - (18,000) | -2.5m (-1.82m) | -8.6p (-7.6p) | 1.5p (1.4p) | 07.04.98 | 0a |
| Parsons Technology (F) | 22.4m (23.3m) | -0.27m (-0.91m) | -1.0p (-7.2p) | - | - | - |
| European Power (F) | 0.2m (0.84m) | -2.1m (-0.70m) | -4.85p (-4.40p) | - | - | - |
| Monoculture (F) | 87.5m (87.5m) | 14.1m (27.0m) | 2.5p (7.4p) | 18 (18) | 25.11.98 | 12.10.98 |
| London & Associated Properties (F) | - | 1.02m (0.87m) | 1.02p (1.07p) | 1.7p (1.50p) | 25.11.98 | 12.10.98 |
| Providence (F) | 24.0m (21.3m) | 3.70m (2.57m) | 2.5p (2.5p) | 1.7p (1.50p) | 25.11.98 | 12.10.98 |
| Ricardo (F) | 82.4m (84.7m) | 8.01m (14.0m) | 11.0p (10.5p) | 6.3p (5p) | 0a | 0a |
| Seabury Group (F) | 9.4m (-) | 0.49m (0.04m) | 0.47p (0.24p) | 6.5p (6.20p) | 27.11.98 | 28.10.98 |
| Seabury (F) | 6.2m (6.1m) | 0.33m (0.42m) | 0.33p (0.42p) | - | - | - |
| Simple Systems (F) | 46.8m (22.1m) | 2.19m (1.22m) | 19.0p (12.5p) | - | - | - |
| Shellchem (F) | 12.9m (4.89m) | 0.65 (0.27m) | 6.9p (4.5p) | 4.0p (1.85p) | 27.11.98 | 01.10.98 |
| United Energy (F) | 2.7m (2.97m) | -0.19m (0.50m) | -0.5p (1.2p) | 1.5p (1.54p) | 06.11.98 | 0a |
| World Telecom (F) | 9.2m (3.22m) | -3.5m (-0.00m) | -15.7p (-4.3p) | - | - | - |

(F) - Final (I) - Interim

Formula One off the starting grid

IF AT first you don't succeed... Having failed to float his company on the stock market last year, Bernie Ecclestone, chief executive of Formula One, is trying a different tack - securitising it. This appears such a neat way of allowing Mr Ecclestone to realise a large slug of his investment, without having to go through the disciplines of a stock market float, that it's a wonder no one thought of it before.

Yet this time last year Formula One and its adviser, then Salomon Smith Barney, were doggedly sticking to the line that the company could and would be floated in a matter of months - this despite the fact that the constructors that make Formula One work were disputing both Mr Ecclestone's rights of ownership and his claim to the lucrative TV rights that support the sport. It was plain to everyone other than Salomon and Mr Ecclestone that the bird could not be made to fly.

Now everything is sweetness and light once more. A new adviser has been brought in, Morgan Stanley Dean Witter, the teams have agreed a new concord dividing up TV revenue for the next 10 years, and Mr Ecclestone has ceded limited ownership rights to the constructors on



OUTLOOK

terms they seem happy with. So what's to stop Formula One trying for a second time at flotation, apart from the turbulent stock market that is?

The answer seems to be the "Max factor" - broadly defined as City investors' strong mistrust of and aversion to maverick entrepreneurs. Morgan Stanley has concluded that while these investors might not take equity, they will take more highly-securitised debt. Once they have got used to that, and in the process familiarised themselves with the company, they might eventually take the equity as well. The \$2bn securitised bond issue is deliberately structured to lead to a float, in that there is a step

up in the coupon after five years if the bond hasn't been repaid by then.

So everyone's happy, aren't they? Formula One finds a way of introducing itself to the City and gaining its confidence. Mr Ecclestone's family gets its \$2bn with the promise of more to come once the company is floated a couple of years hence, the teams get a slice of the action, and Morgan Stanley gets its fee. What possible problem could there be?

One is that the coupon demanded by investors for such securitisations has risen markedly over the past couple of months. Formula One's revenues from TV and merchandising are as predictable and secure as any, but in these markets only Group of Seven governments are regarded as entirely dependable. Put another way, financial engineering of this type may be very much in the interests of the Ecclestone family, but City support will come at a high price.

Dream team?

STUART ROSE has been linked with more top jobs over the last year than Will Carling has had blond haired women. That's no mean feat, assuming the former England rugby

captain's record is more than just fantasy. Many of Mr Rose's supposed dalliances were probably imagined too, but finally, and after several false starts, he seems to have scored.

It was little more than a year ago that the forthright Yorkshireman was seen as the front-runner to take the helm at WH Smith, having lost out to Terry Green in the battle to run Debenhams. The Smith's job went to Richard Handover and Mr Rose remained on the job market. Then along came the GUS bid for Argos. Mr Rose was parachuted in with a golden hello that guaranteed him £540,000 even if he lost the bid. This he duly did, albeit after a spirited defence. Since then, he's been cited as a front runner for virtually every chief executive's post going. After all that it might have been thought he'd do rather better than Booker, a by-word for corporate awfulness.

Still, Mr Rose gets an Argos style remuneration package which says he will receive a full £400,000 year's pay even if Booker fails to a takeover bid at any time in the first 12 months. Then, of course, there are the share options pitched at a price that ought to prove a historic low.

For Mr Rose, this seems a case of heads he wins, tails he wins. If he fails,

he'll be able to say Booker was beyond saving. If he succeeds, he will be hailed as a corporate hero. Mr Rose did a good job defending Argos and he is seen in the City as a good appointment.

Certainly he stands a reasonable chance of success. Booker is a business that has £5bn of sales but makes operating returns of a paltry two per cent. The previous management has pumped millions into improving the distribution and warehousing systems. That investment may be on the brink of paying off. Even so, it is worth noting what a terrible old merry-go-round the higher echelons of British corporate life have become. Whenever there's a top job in the offing, the same old names get trotted out, and generally one of them gets it. Where's the new talent, where's the young blood capable of offering a genuinely fresh approach? Let's hope that Booker's "dream team" of Mr Rose and John Napier proves equal to the task.

ONdigital

STEPHEN GRABINER must know what it's like to be a game show contestant. For the past few months the

chief executive of ONdigital, the pay-TV service that will hit our screens in November, has been taking part in a particularly grueling contest called Challenge Ruppert.

The concept is simple. A plucky contestant is charged with setting up a broadcasting company from scratch to take on the mighty BSkyB. But first his previous employer refuses to let him leave. Then he is given inferior programmes and less cash to play with. To top it all off, he has to rely on a reluctant BSkyB to supply him with key sports and movie channels - something he only achieves with the help of numerous writs.

Given the odds against him, Mr Grabiner has done rather well. Standing in a studio at London Weekend Television yesterday, he put a convincing case for why people should choose ONdigital. Don't blight your house with a satellite dish or dig up your garden to lay cable - ONdigital will plug straight into your existing aerial. If you can't get it to work, they'll send out an engineer, and even give you a new aerial if you need one. You can pick any six channels you want from a list of twelve, for just £7.99 a

month. And you'll be allowed to change them any time you like.

The hope is that this approach will be sufficiently appealing to the dish-hating technophobes of Middle England to give Carlton and Granada, ONdigital's shareholders, the three or so million subscribers they need to make a return on their investment.

Unfortunately, this may be an offer consumers feel they can refuse. If it's channels you after you could have a much broader choice from Sky for more or less the same price. For interactive services and internet access, you're better off with the cable operators.

All Mr Grabiner has done so far is drag ONdigital to the starting line, ensuring that it does not fall too far behind Sky in the initial battle for subscribers. That in itself may be no mean achievement, but what ONdigital really needs is more compelling, original content if it is to be more than an also-ran in the digital race. The nightmare is that it ends up like British Satellite Broadcasting, its ill-fated predecessor in the Marco Polo building south of Chelsea Bridge. That company was eventually subsumed by Sky.

Booker finds its dream team

BOOKER, THE struggling cash-and-carry operator that has been spurned by two potential bidders in the last two months, claimed to have found "the dream team" yesterday when it named a new chairman and chief executive.

The new chief executive is Stuart Rose, the former Burton director who was brought in by Argos in the spring to run the catalogue retailer's defence against the hostile bid from Great Universal Stores. Joining as chairman is John Napier, the former managing director of Hays' logistics business. His arrival heralds the departure of Jonathan Taylor, the current chairman, who has been out of favour with City institutions.

BY NIGEL COPE
Associate City Editor

Mr Rose, who was paid £540,000 for just a few months work when Argos fell to the GUS bid, will enjoy a similarly generous contract with Booker. He will receive a salary of £400,000 and 1.5m share options priced at around 100p. As Booker is still considered vulnerable to a bid Mr Rose will enjoy a two-year contract for the first two years and will be paid a full year's salary if Booker is taken over at any time within the first 12 months. A takeover would also trigger his share options. "It is not about money but I have to protect my family," Mr Rose said.

Mr Rose, who will join in 10 days' time, said he supports Booker's stated strategy of disposing of its non-core businesses, such as salmon farming, to concentrate on the core cash-and-carry business. "I want to make Booker more of a retailer and a company that is more responsive to its customers," said Mr Rose. "It is a strong business, with a big turnover and the potential for strong cash flow."

Mr Taylor said he felt he was departing with Booker in safe hands. "It is a good team with a doughty, battle-hardened chief executive and hugely experienced chairman who brings key distribution and logistics skills."

The City welcomed the news, marking Booker shares 15p higher at 106.5p. One analyst said: "The market reaction suggests that this (Stuart Rose) is a better calibre of appointment than the City had feared."

Mr Rose, 49, spent many years at Marks & Spencer where he was involved in food retailing. More recently he has been chief executive of Burton Menswear, Dorothy Perkins and Principles. He was linked with the chief executive job at WH Smith last year.

Booker held takeover talks with Somerfield and then Budgens earlier in the summer. However, both companies eventually walked away from a possible deal.



Booker shares rose to 106.5p on news that Stuart Rose (above) has been appointed chief executive

Close Brothers' shares dive 12%

SHARES IN Close Brothers dived nearly 12 per cent yesterday, writes Andrew Garfield, after chief executive Rod Kent warned of a "challenging" year ahead for the investment banking group whose clients include Henlys, the builder, and Dan Wagner's information group MAID.

Close Brothers' business is exclusively domestic. But despite escaping the problems in Asia and Russia, Close Brothers has seen signs of a slowdown in all business since its July year-end and is taking a cautious view of the year ahead.

"Most slowdowns are deeper and last longer than people

think at first," said Mr Kent. "We are at the beginning of a very uncertain period."

Close Brothers will be looking carefully at which businesses it wants to be in. But Mr Kent added that there may be opportunities for selective acquisitions, particularly in asset management. "Historically, we get active in recessions," he said.

Profits in the year to the end of July increased 26 per cent to £89.6m, the 23rd successive year of profits growth. Winterfood Securities enjoyed a 39 per cent jump in profits, and merchant banking profited a 31 per cent increase. Close acted in 40 transactions to a value of £3bn.

VOLVO

After all, it is the new Volvo S40 1.6 NS with alloy wheels, CD player, air conditioning and alarm. But at £14,495 on the road, we think you'll agree, it's closer than you thought. For more details call 08 00 11 41 40, www.volvocars.com

THE VOLVO S40 1.6 XS £14,495
A CAR YOU CAN BELIEVE IN

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1. 2000
 2. 1999
 3. 1998
 4. 1997
 5. 1996

Figure 1

Abstract

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Mobile phones sound an anguished ring

MOBILE PHONES had an anguished ring as the stock market fretted about increased regulatory interference. Vodafone fell 27p (after 42p) to 689p, Orange 14p to 567p and BT, which controls Cellnet, 9p to 787p. Securicor, with the Cellnet minority, lost 13p to 367p.

Dave Edmunds, director general of telephone regulator Ofcom, expressed concern over the weekend about the level of competition in the industry and said he intended to probe the mobile phone industry in the New Year. Due to the mobile phone retreat telecoms was the worst performing sector, falling almost 1.4 per cent.

The rest of the market, despite busy trading with share turnover again topping 1 billion, turned in a muted display, ignoring a buoyant New York. Footsie struggled to a 32.5 points gain to 5,883.5, and the mid cap index rose 24.1 to 4,553. But for the small caps it was another dismal session with the index hitting a new low this year, down 8.9 to 2,002.6. Hopes of an interest rate cut, possibly half-a-point, spurred American shares.

Norwich Union, the insurance group, was one of the best per-

MARKET REPORT



DEREK PAIN

forming blue chips, strengthening 27p to 460p as take-over stories resurfaced.

Once again Halifax, which won Westminster clearance for its takeover of Birmingham Midshires Building Society, was the name in the frame. With the mortgage market becoming increasingly competitive the old building societies are finding it increasingly difficult to hold their market share. As margins continue to narrow they are thought to be casting around for diversification and insurance is seen as a likely di-

rection for the likes of Halifax, down 8.5p to 753p.

Glaxo Wellcome shed 5p to 1,703p after confirming it had developed a treatment, Relenza, which shortens the life of the flu bug and reduces its impact. The pharmaceutical giant also reported positive developments on the HIV front.

Boots firmed 14p to 1,008p ahead of meetings with analysts and Kingfisher added 8p to 533p with SG Securities putting a 600p tag on the shares.

Cadbury Schweppes was lowered 13.5p to 775p after Merrill Lynch lost some of its enthusiasm, and Coca-Cola Beverages rose 3p to 155.5p despite BT Alex Brown's sell advice. The investment house has, following Friday's uninspiring trading statement from the parent Coca-Cola group, reduced its estimates of today's half-year profits to a bottom-of-the-range £16m. Some houses are looking for £22m.

Tate & Lyle, the sugar group, failed to respond to Lehman Brothers' enthusiasm, shading to 319.5p. The securities group put a 600p target on the shares.

Booker, the struggling cash and

carry chain, greeted the arrival of John Napier, chairman, and Stuart Rose, chief executive, with a 15p gain to 108.5p. The dream team has plenty of scope for improvement; Booker's shares were 47p five years ago.

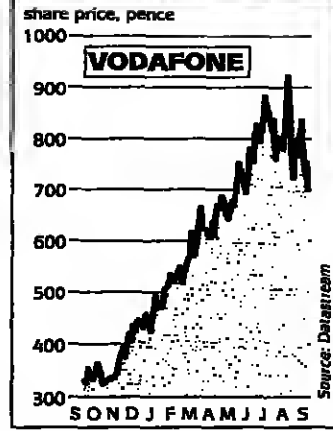
HARTFORD, NOW taking in the trendy Pharmacy restaurant in London's Notting Hill, returned to market at 2p against the 0.75p at which the shares were suspended while the take-over went through.

The company is intent on rolling out the Pharmacy concept in European cities and New York. It is also looking at the possibility of establishing a chain of fast-food outlets based on kebabs shops in this country.

TLG, the lighting group, fell 11.5p to 171.5p, after Wassall, re-inventing itself as a venture capital group, won the take-over struggle with its £383m offer. Wassall fell 11p to 236.5p.

Business Post's headlong plunge came to an end with the shares,

SHARE SPOTLIGHT



967.5p in spring, rallying 52.5p to 277.5p.

Carlton Communications, rumoured to be planning a bid for Aston Villa, firmed 12p to 400p after a presentation on its ONdigital launch. Its partner Granada gained 27p to 785p. The football club's shares, helped along by its Premier League lead, gained 47.5p to 707.5p. Billiton improved on the firmer

commodity prices with the South African group 11.25p higher at 137.75p. Oils responded to recent signs the crude oil price was hardening - Richard Savage at SG Securities forecasts an \$18 a barrel

ARLEN, THE electrical group that is in talks to sell a major part of its operations, firmed to 29.5p. There is talk AIM-traded CCI Holdings could emerge as the buyer. Simon Beart, who helped build up the Britons paper and packaging group, has moved in on CCI, which used to make clay pigeons, and is known to be seeking acquisitions.

The shares are 125p; they had, before the Beart arrival, been 190.5p.

level, currently around \$14.60, within a few months. British Petroleum gained 17.5p to 889.5p but Shell, still unsettled by its profits warning, gave up 12p to 356p. Land Securities, the property group, lost 22p to 908p as Merrill Lynch grew cautious.

Railtrack was on the express line, reaching a 1,660p peak, up 54p, with work due to start next month on the high-speed link between London and the Channel Tunnel.

Stewart, the Irish telecoms business, fell 31.5p to 26p before being suspended "pending a further announcement". Superframe, which makes and designs retail display units, gained 4.5p to 17.5p. The group is thought to be the target for Mike Macdonald, chairman of Sheffield United, who is said to be seeking a vehicle for some of its unquoted interests. Dean Corporation, the house builder and property services group, has more than 29 per cent.

Devro, the sausage skin maker said to be on bid alert, gained 13.5p to 243.5p and hopes of corporate action at Zetters, the pools group, produced a 12.5p advance to 117.5p.

Chloride was little changed at 40.5p as Albert E Sharp made favourable noises, pointing out the electrical group should have £32m cash by March, equal to 13p a share.

SEAQ VOLUME: 1.09bn

SEAQ TRADES: 54549
GILT INDEX: 112.38 + 0.86

Wet summer dries up Greenalls' beer sales

INVESTORS IN Greenalls should drink to Bass's profit warning. Were it not for their larger competitor's bearish words two weeks ago, shareholders in the pub and hotel group would be crying in their beer.

Yesterday, Greenalls issued a trading statement which was a carbon copy of Bass's update. The main problem was that pubs trading in the North-west and the Midlands, the bulk of Greenalls' estate, slowed down sharply as the economy ground to a halt. Drinks sales were also hampered by the wet summer weather.

Overall, turnover grew by 6 per cent, but sales per outlet were a measly 1.8 per cent up. A pretty gloomy picture, and yet the shares fell only 1/4p to 303.5p.

Greenalls' saving grace was that Bass had said it all before and most analysts had downgraded the whole sector at the time. Given the sorry state of the pub market, the fact that Greenalls did not fare any worse than Bass was good enough to prop up the shares.

The performance of the hotels and leisure division, centred on the plush De Vere golf hotels and the Village Leisure chain of hotel-cum-fitness centres, was also heartening. Room yields grew in double digits despite some price pressure from the strong pound.

This division is the key to Greenalls' fortunes in the impending economic downturn. The company is banking on a reliable stream of earnings from De Vere and Village Leisure to counteract the inevitable fall in pub sales. To this end it is diverting more of its capital expenditure from pubs to hotels in an effort to boost its estate.

The risk is that if the economy does take a tumble, cash-strapped consumers will be likely to cut down on their expensive golf breaks, leaving Greenalls stranded.

The shares are now on around 7.5-times 1998 earnings forecast of around £160m. At these bargain levels, they are worth holding.

INVESTMENT

EDITED BY PETER THAL LARSEN

GREENALLS GROUP: AT A GLANCE

Market value: £890.158m, share price 303.5 (-0.5p)

Trading record 1994 1995 1996 1997 1998*

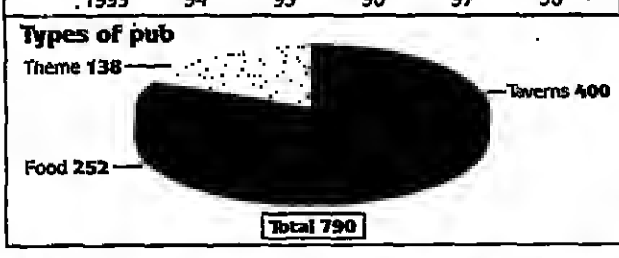
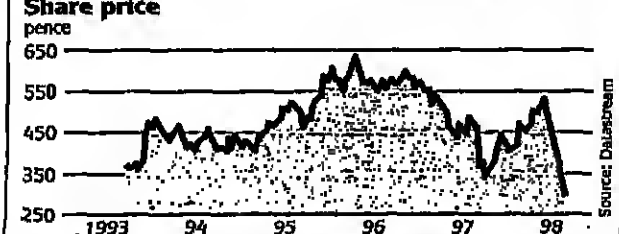
Turnover (£m) 770.36 765.8 815.5 841.2 850.0

Pre-tax profits (£m) 74.83 100.71 117.43 137.65 160.0

Earnings per share (p) 25.50 36.61 42.92 50.86 59.00

Dividends per share (p) 13.10 14.20 15.40 16.71 18.0

*Forecast by Merrill Lynch



Medicine works for Oasis

OASIS RAD a disastrous 1997, with two profits warnings dragging the shares down from 421.5p to a low of 120p. Since then the women's fashion retailer has been undergoing a gradual rehabilitation.

The buying mistakes which wrecked trading last year are one of the risks that come with the territory in fashion chains. But Oasis has been beefing up its buying department, introducing better systems and more checks and balances to ensure things do not get so out of kilter again.

So far the medicine seems to be working. Pre-tax profits of £4.8m for the first half were 30 per cent higher than the same period last year, pushing the shares 8.5p higher to 160p.

The key like-for-like figures look encouraging, although the business is trading against

extremely weak comparisons. Same-store sales grew by 9 per cent in the first half and are up by 19 per cent in the first seven weeks of the second.

August was grim, with poor weather hampering sales of summer dresses and the like. Oasis marked stock down aggressively and managed to shift most of it before its autumn ranges came in.

Overall, the margin has edged up, which is no mean feat.

Store openings have been pegged back owing to high property rents.

The Coast concessions business, which was acquired for £1m in April, has yet to make a contribution, but will gradually be shifted toward a high-street operation and could look interesting in two or three years.

On full-year forecasts of £16m, the shares trade on a forward multiple of just 9 and yield 5 per cent.

With comparisons weak until

Poor time for Pilkington

next January, the shares look decent value in an unloved sector.

WHEN Paolo Scaroni took over as chief executive of Pilkington 17 months ago, the glass-maker's shares jumped to almost 130p. Yesterday they closed unchanged at 60.5p, in spite of the company issuing a reassuring trading update ahead of its interim results due in a month.

To be fair, this underperformance can hardly be blamed on Mr Scaroni. His plan to drag Pilkington's productivity up to the level of its main competitors by cutting 7,500 workers remains on track and should be complete by March.

One-off factors such as the strike at General Motors, which cost Pilkington £7m, and interest-rate hikes in Brazil, which hurt car-buying, could hardly have been foreseen.

In profit terms, things should get better. Analysts cut their profit forecasts yesterday to about £138m - in line with last year's figures. For the following year - the first with the full benefit of the cost-cutting - they expect anything from £180m to £200m, which puts the shares on a forward earnings multiple of just six.

However, Pilkington is operating in an intensely competitive industry which is prone to cyclical swings.

The danger is that at least some of the benefits of the latest round of cost-cutting will simply evaporate in lower prices.

Add in worries about Pilkington's debt load, which will be swelled by the redundancies, and the shares - the 8 per cent dividend yield aside - have little to commend them.

Mr Scaroni is doing as well as anyone could be expected to do under the circumstances, but for the time being investors are best off avoiding this industry altogether.



All ready for the brokers' scrum as the City's finest battled for rugby honours last Sunday at Richmond

Lloyd's triumph in black

ALL THOUGHTS of the dwindling rouble and crashing hedge funds were banished on Sunday as the City's finest battled it out for the annual Reuters City Sevens.

The rugby-fest at Richmond Athletic Ground has been organised by Keith Sheppard ever since he set up the tournament in 1973. Having spent 30 years in the City, mostly with Hoare & Co, Mr Sheppard is now retired.

Lloyd's of London won the Shield for the second year, beating Warburg Dillon Read in the final. This prompted some muttering amongst the throng that the chaps from Lime Street enjoyed an advantage in that they can select players from any company in the whole of the Lloyd's insurance market.

Such wheing (and it didn't come from the gallant Warburgs) makes Mr Sheppard laugh: "I was ever thus. Half-fax were drawing on people from their Wales office."

"Lloyd's have a very fine tradition to hold up they won in 1995 as well and if they turn up with some players, I'm not going to turn them away."

Mr Sheppard added that the Stock Exchange team had always provided a valuable service by picking people from

to its annual lecture on "Bust Banks: Global View". Liliana Rojas-Suarez, chief economist for Latin America at Deutsche Bank Securities, will be telling it like it is on 22 October.

TELSPEC, the Kent-based developer of telecoms equipment, said yesterday that Jonathan Paget, group chief executive, has left the group "by mutual consent", effective immediately.

The company has formed a committee of the board to run things until a new head can be found. The committee includes Donald Muir (group finance director) and Eddie Hughes (group manufacturing director). It will implement a programme of cost-cutting and restructuring.

David Ball (chairman of Nortel) and John Westhead (non-executive deputy chairman of Bowthorpe) will also sit on the committee in their capacity as non-executive directors.

As a stop-gap measure, Mr Muir will assume the chief executive's role in Telspec Europe. Mr Hughes will continue to run for Telspec Australia.

SOUTH LONDON maestros Crystal Palace recently signed

the first ever Chinese footballers to a UK side, presenting novel problems for the club's legal advisers, SJ Berwin.

The club's owner Mark Goldberg, who made his fortune in IT recruitment, and its manager Terry Venables, were both keen to get the Chinese duo on board. At £1.5m for the pair, they were a bargain by British standards.

But first Nicola Kerr, a partner in SJ Berwin, had to provide the British labour authorities with the evidence to justify the proposed transfers of Fan Zhiyi, the captain of the Chinese national side, and international defender Sun Jiali.

Ms Kerr told *The Lawyer*: "Although Fan and Sun are superstars in China, it was clear that Britain's football governing bodies - the Football Association, the Football League and the Professional Footballers Association - had insufficient information on the state of the Chinese game."

This meant Ms Kerr had to liaise with Palace, currently mid-table with Nationwide Division One, as well as with the various Chinese "footy" authorities in preparing an application to the Overseas Labour Service in London.

FOREIGN EXCHANGE RATES

| Country | Sterling | 1 month | 3 month | Dollar | Spot | 1 month | 3 month | D-Market | Spot |
|--------------|----------|---------|---------|--------|--------|---------|---------|----------|------|
| UK | 1.0000 | | | 0.5860 | 0.5870 | 0.5889 | 0.5899 | 0.3500 | |
| Australia | 2.8993 | 2.8946 | 2.8958 | 1.6899 | 1.6891 | 1.6895 | 1.6895 | 1.0148 | |
| Austria | 20.147 | 20.140 | 20.039 | 1.1806 | 1.1804 | 1.1801 | 1.1801 | 7.0505 | |
| Belgium | 36.814 | 36.749 | 36.369 | 34.335 | 34.425 | 34.375 | 34.375 | 20.624 | |
| Canada | 2.5772 | 2.5730 | 2.5646 | 1.5102 | 1.5103 | 1.5103 | 1.5103 | 0.9019 | |
| Denmark | 1.4517 | 1.4478 | 1.4401 | 1.7555 | 1.7577 | 1.7591 | 1.7591 | 0.8295 | |
| ECU | 1.7284 | | | 1.5250 | 1.5170 | 1.5101 | 1.5101 | 1.0006 | |
| France | 8.7458 | 8.7173 | 8.6633 | 5.1250 | 5.1170 | 5.1021 | 5.1021 | 3.3517 | |
| Germany | 9.518 | 9.467 | 9.4089 | 5.6125 | 5.6040 | 5.5981 | 5.5981 | 3.3517 | |
| Greece | 2.8755 | 2.8483 | 2.8309 | 1.6745 | 1.6719 | 1.6722 | 1.6722 | 1.2256 | |
| Hong Kong | 13.232 | 13.230 | 13.254 | 7.7478 | 7.7503 | 7.7508 | 7.7508 | 4.6299 | |
| Ireland | 1.1449 | 1.1439 | 1.1397 | 1.4906 | 1.4897 | 1.4899 | 1.4899 | 0.8901 | |
| Italy | 2.813 | 2.813 | 2.813 | 1.6584 | 1.6584 | 1.6584 | 1.6584 | 990.74 | |
| Japan | 231.40 | 230.05 | 227.38 | 135.60 | 135.94 | 133.91 | 133.91 | 80.979 | |
| Malaysia | 6.4762 | 6.5080 | 6.7835 | 3.9650 | 3.9730 | 3.9650 | 3.9650 | 6.0579 | |
| Mexico | 17.283 | | | 1.1010 | 1.0936 | 1.0777 | 1.0777 | 1.1368 | |
| Netherlands | 3.2198 | 3.2198 | 3.1894 | 0.8955 | 0.8955 | 0.8955 | 0.8955 | 1.0156 | |
| New Zealand | 3.4443 | 3.4367 | 3.4268 | 7.4793 | 7.4793 | 7.5118 | 7.5118 | 4.4255 | |
| Norway | 19.732 | 19.732 | 19.732 | 7.4608 | 7.4608 | 7.4608 | 7.4608 | 101.76 | |
| Portugal | 203.12 | 202.36 | 202.61 | 3.7509 | 3.7507 | 3.7511 | 3.7511 | 2.2383 | |
| Saudi Arabia | 9.4004 | 9.3954 | 9.3893 | 1.5906 | 1.5906 | 1.5906 | 1.5906 | 1.0106 | |
| Singapore | 2.8978 | 2.8964 | 2.8959 | 1.6923 | 1.6923 | 1.6923 | 1.6923 | 3.4909 | |
| South Africa | 9.9713 | 10.0036 | 10.0077 | 5.8435 | 5.8435 | 5.8435 | 5.8435 | 1.8507 | |
| Spain | 2.0281 | 2.0235 | 2.0109 | 1.4235 | 1.4234 | 1.4158 | 1.4158 | 85.007 | |
| Sweden | 13.362 | 13.327 | 13.273 | 7.8504 | 7.8504 | 7.8504 | 7.8504 | 0.8285 | |
| Switzerland | 2.3874 | 2.3537 | 2.3331 | 1.3873 | 1.3828 | 1.3741 | 1.3741 | 0.5972 | |
| US | 1.7065 | | | 1.0000 | | | | | |

OTHER SPOT RATES

| Country | Sterling | Dollar | Country | Sterling | Dollar |
|-----------|----------|---------|-------------|----------|--------|
| Argentina | 1.7065 | 1.0000 | Omran | 85.188 | 49.920 |
| Brazil | 2.0213 | 1.1845 | Pakistan | 74.574 | 43.700 |
| China | 14.127 | 8.2783 | Philippines | 9.0598 | 3.5510 |
| Czech Rep | 51.340 | 30.085 | Poland | 9.2108 | 3.6395 |
| Ghana | 5.8238 | 3.4127 | Qatar | 1382.50 | 1.0000 |
| Hungary | 374.34 | 219.36 | South Korea | 239.92 | 34.553 |
| India | 72.585 | 42.540 | Taiwan | 99.939 | 38.050 |
| Indonesia | 18771.5 | 11000.0 | Thailand | 474544 | 278090 |
| Kuwait | 0.5197 | 0.3045 | Turkey | 6.2985 | 3.6733 |
| Nigeria | 155.58 | 90.000 | UAE | | |

INTEREST RATES

| | | | |
|--------------------|----------|-------------|-------------|
| UK | Germany | US | Japan |
| Base | Discount | Prime | Discount |
| France | Lombard | 4.50% | 5.00% |
| Intervention 3.30% | Canada | Fixed Funds | 5.50% |
| Italy | 7.50% | 10-d Repo | 4.25% |
| Discount | 5.00% | Sweden | Switzerland |
| Netherlands | Denmark | Switzerland | 1.00% |
| Sp/Advance | 3.30% | Repo/Avg | Lombard |
| | | | 3.25% |

| BOND YIELDS | | | | | | | | | |
|----------------|-------|-------|------|-------|------|-------|------|-------|-----|
| Country | 3 mth | 1 yr | chg | 2 yr | chg | 5 yr | chg | 10 yr | chg |
| Australia | 5.75 | 1.03 | 4.59 | 0.00 | 4.61 | 0.00 | 4.83 | -0.03 | |
| Belgium | 3.47 | 0.00 | 3.50 | -0.02 | 3.50 | 0.00 | 3.78 | -0.03 | |
| Canada | 4.25 | 0.00 | 4.25 | 0.00 | 4.25 | 0.00 | 4.46 | -0.01 | |
| ECU | 4.10 | -0.02 | 3.78 | 0.00 | 3.59 | 0.00 | 3.80 | 0.03 | |
| France | 0.00 | 0.00 | 3.42 | 0.01 | 3.51 | -0.02 | 3.75 | -0.01 | |
| Germany | 3.50 | 0.00 | 3.59 | 0.00 | 3.58 | -0.02 | 3.72 | 0.01 | |
| Italy | 4.68 | -0.18 | 3.99 | -0.10 | 3.90 | -0.03 | 4.01 | -0.01 | |
| Japan | 0.17 | 0.00 | 0.28 | 0.01 | 0.37 | 0.03 | 0.93 | 0.04 | |
| United Kingdom | 3.36 | 0.01 | 3.41 | 0.00 | 3.56 | 0.00 | 3.78 | -0.01 | |
| Spain | 3.97 | -0.03 | 3.60 | 0.00 | 3.62 | -0.01 | 3.62 | -0.02 | |
| Sweden | 4.23 | -0.02 | 3.81 | -0.02 | 4.35 | -0.01 | 4.54 | -0.01 | |
| Switzerland | 1.00 | 0.00 | 1.66 | 0.00 | 2.00 | 0.00 | 2.83 | 0.00 | |
| UK | 6.98 | -0.13 | 6.94 | 0.00 | 5.73 | 0.01 | 5.32 | -0.02 | |
| US | 4.34 | -0.01 | 4.29 | -0.01 | 4.43 | -0.01 | 4.39 | -0.01 | |

BOND YIELDS

| Country | 3 mth | chg | 1 yr | chg | 2 yr | chg | 5 yr | chg | 10 yr | chg |
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| Australia | 5.73 | 1.03 | 4.59 | 0.00 | 4.61 | -0.02 | 4.83 | -0.03 | 5.13 | -0.03 |
| Belgium | 3.47 | 0.00 | 3.50 | -0.02 | 3.50 | 0.00 | 3.78 | -0.03 | 4.28 | 0.01 |
| Canada | 4.92 | -0.05 | 5.04 | -0.01 | 4.92 | -0.01 | 5.00 | 0.03 | 5.03 | 0.01 |
| ECU | 4.10 | -0.02 | 3.79 | 0.00 | 3.59 | 0.00 | 3.60 | 0.03 | 4.15 | 0.00 |
| France | 0.17 | 0.00 | 0.28 | 0.01 | 0.37 | 0.03 | 0.83 | 0.04 | 0.82 | -0.05 |
| Germany | 3.50 | 0.00 | 3.59 | 0.00 | 3.38 | -0.02 | 3.72 | -0.01 | 3.96 | -0.01 |
| Italy | 4.68 | -0.18 | 3.99 | -0.10 | 3.90 | -0.03 | 4.01 | -0.01 | 4.43 | 0.00 |
| Japan | 0.17 | 0.00 | 0.28 | 0.01 | 0.37 | 0.03 | 0.83 | 0.04 | 0.82 | -0.05 |
| Netherlands | 3.50 | 0.00 | 3.59 | 0.00 | 3.38 | -0.02 | 3.72 | -0.01 | 3.96 | -0.01 |
| Spain | 3.97 | -0.03 | 3.90 | 0.00 | 3.52 | 0.01 | 3.82 | 0.01 | 4.39 | -0.01 |
| Sweden | 4.23 | -0.02 | 4.31 | -0.02 | 4.35 | -0.01 | 4.54 | -0.01 | 4.85 | -0 |

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SPORT

Hakkinen ready for the final lap

As the Formula One championship nears its climax in Japan, Derick Allsop finds the Finnish driver determined to end McLaren's lean streak

THE SOUND of Queen boomed out from the McLaren-Mercedes camp, providing an appropriate anthem: "It's a kind of magic... one dream... one prize... one goal".

That goal had come tantalisingly into view and the magic could not be suppressed. Even Michael Schumacher's fans gatecrashed the party and had their red caps autographed by Mika Hakkinen's accommodating if slightly bemused wife, Erja.

Hakkinen was still locked in a private compartment of the motor home; showered, changed, alone with his thoughts, some scattered gear and a picture given him for his birthday. It was a precious opportunity to quietly savour the satisfaction of his achievement.

Victory in the Luxembourg Grand Prix had given him a potentially decisive advantage over Schumacher in the Formula One world championship and convinced a sceptical sport he was worthy to aspire to its ultimate goal.

"We've not won here by luck or somebody going off, we've won because we were fast and had the right tactics," Hakkinen, who was 30 yesterday, said.

"I proved a point and if I win the championship I will feel I deserve it. But when I am on the track, I never think about what people think. I just race for myself. I believe in my abilities."

A lot of other drivers deserve to win it and have proved they're great drivers. Damon Hill and Jacques Villeneuve had to fight for it in the last couple of years. A driver like Johnny Herbert, who has been racing many years, also deserves it.

Second place in the final race of the season, in Japan on 1 November, will be enough to give the magnanimous Hakkinen the championship, even if Schumacher wins. The Finn

might be forgiven if he now applied additional psychological pressure to his adversary and the Ferrari team, but that is evidently not his style.

"I don't see any difference in Michael because of this defeat," Hakkinen said. "He feels bad, of course, he is down, especially because this is in Germany. I would feel the same if it had happened to me in Finland."

"But the last race, in Italy, was a disaster for us and we came back, and Michael will be back just the same, lifting his team. We do that because we are both professional. He knows you just have to keep going, and maybe the team will find some improvements in testing."

Hakkinen, who joined

'People here have been through hard times and appreciate it when they win. I know how they feel'

McLaren in 1993 on the advice of his manager, Keke Rosberg, has shared with the team some of their leanest years, an experience which renders success all the more rewarding.

"You have to believe in a team and stick to a team with potential. Keke told me to come to McLaren because they had the record, the history. They have great people, the package and the sponsors, and when you have that you know that if you work, one day you will win."

"Some of the people here have been through hard times, and they appreciate it when they win. I know how they feel. They're working flat out and believe in me 100 per cent. That is one of the reasons I don't want to let them down."

Rosberg, Finland's first and last world champion, in 1982, is unrestrained in his appraisal of Hakkinen and the impact his driver has had on Formula One here.

"People have finally recognised Mika is a great racing driver," he said. "Even after his wins in Austria and Monaco this year, people were saying he'd crack under the pressure and that Michael is better than anyone."

"The trouble is, Michael plays down the car, saying the Ferrari is no good, to make himself look better. McLaren drivers are part of a team. If Mika had driven for Ferrari here the church bells would now be ringing in Italy."

"Michael now knows what he faces, that Mika is not an easy touch. Michael will probably be praying for rain in Japan, but Mika can win in snow, rain or sun."

"It's going to be some fight at Suzuka. It can be just as difficult to be second as it is to win a race."

Jean Todt, Ferrari's sporting director in every sense here, commended Hakkinen on "one of his best races" before retreating to scratch his head along with the rest of his team. McLaren's extra pace and Hakkinen's application had patently wrong-footed them.

Hakkinen, who goes testing at Magny-Cours this week, said a little bashfully: "I don't exactly feel it was my best race. It's really weird and hard for me to understand what's going on at the moment. We haven't won it yet."

"At the end of the day it is still a sport. I can only give it my best shot. If I lose I lose; if I win I win. To be a good winner you have to learn to lose."

"It doesn't matter when you win, as long as you get your goal."

That's a kind of magic.



Hakkinen says: 'It's really weird and hard for me to understand what's going on at the moment. We haven't won it yet'

Allsport

HOW THE TOP TWO FOUGHT THEIR WAY TOWARDS THE F1 CHAMPIONSHIP CLIMAX

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|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| AUSTRALIA, 8 MARCH Hakkinen 1st (10pts) Schumacher did not finish (0) Controversy began with the first race of the season when David Coulthard handed the race to team-mate Mika Hakkinen after the two men forged a pre-race agreement that the driver leading at the first corner should be granted victory by the other. Schumacher pulled out with engine failure. | SAN MARINO, 27 APR Hakkinen did not finish (26) Schumacher 2nd (20) Hakkinen is forced out with gearbox failure after 13 laps but his team-mate Coulthard keeps Schumacher off the top of the podium with a faultless drive. Schumacher takes the runners-up spot. | CANADA, JUNE 7 Hakkinen did not finish (46) Schumacher 1st (34) Schumacher wins an exciting "demolition derby" of a race though Williams complains officially about his collision with their driver, Heinz-Harald Frentzen. Hakkinen and Coulthard pull out with gearbox and throttle problems respectively. | AUSTRIA, 26 JULY Hakkinen 1st (66) Schumacher 3rd (58) The future surrounding the British Grand Prix tumbles on with McLaren claiming Schumacher should not have been awarded the race. But the McLaren team find some comfort by dominating in Austria, with Schumacher finishing third. | BELGIUM, 30 AUGUST Hakkinen did not finish (77) Schumacher did not finish (70) The most explosive grand prix of the lot as Coulthard and Schumacher collide and the German driver accuses his McLaren opponent of trying to kill him. Neither Schumacher or Hakkinen score points as Damon Hill wins for Jordan. |
| BRAZIL, 29 MARCH Hakkinen 1st (20) Schumacher 3rd (4) Hakkinen stormed to victory from lights to flag. McLaren's dominance of the championship seemed beyond dispute as he and second-placed Coulthard lapped everyone but the top four. Schumacher was well off the pace in third. | SPAIN, 10 MAY Hakkinen 1st (36) Schumacher 3rd (24) There seems no rivaling Hakkinen when he stays clear of car trouble. This time he destroys the challenge of both team-mate David Coulthard, in second, and Schumacher, who finishes 47 seconds behind the winner. | FRANCE, 28 JUNE Hakkinen 3rd (50) Schumacher 1st (44) Schumacher notches the 30th win of his career thanks to his team-mate Eddie Irvine, who delays the pursuing McLaren's. Irvine confirmed Ferrari's growing competitiveness with second place. | GERMANY, 2 AUGUST Hakkinen 1st (76) Schumacher 5th (60) Another McLaren-Mercedes slaughter left the German fans silent as their hero came in a distant fifth. It seemed all over at this stage with Hakkinen extending his lead to 16 points and looking immensely strong. | ITALY, 13 SEPT Hakkinen 4th (80) Schumacher 1st (80) A magnificent triumph for Schumacher and Ferrari on their "home" course. To make it even more significant Hakkinen can only limp home in fourth behind Irvine and the other Schumacher, Ralf. |
| ARGENTINA, 12 APRIL Hakkinen 2nd (26) Schumacher 1st (14) Schumacher gets his first win with a brilliant drive and two-stop refuelling strategy. The first sign of animosity comes when Coulthard bumps Schumacher as he goes for an overtaking manoeuvre. | MONACO, 24 MAY Hakkinen 1st (46) Schumacher 10th (24) Hakkinen wins his first Monaco Grand Prix, and opens up a 22-point gap over Schumacher, who could only finish in 10th place after an uncharacteristic mistake in overtaking led to him damaging his car. | BRITAIN, 12 JULY Hakkinen did not finish (56) Schumacher 1st (54) Schumacher throws the dice race open with his third triumph in a row. The German only learns he has won while he is sitting in the pit lane undergoing a 10-second stop-go penalty for overtaking under yellow flags. A fruitless protest follows. | HUNGARY, 16 AUGUST Hakkinen 6th (77) Schumacher 1st (70) Suddenly in this topsy-turvy season the impetus switches again with Schumacher giving a supreme performance while Hakkinen's car limps home in sixth after a shock absorber failure. | LUXEMBOURG, 27 SEPT Hakkinen 1st (90) Schumacher 2nd (86) This time Hakkinen is back in the ascendancy and it looks like Schumacher can do nothing to stop him. The Finn's victory is tense rather than spectacular, but it gives him a clear four-point advantage going into the last race. |



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how difficult it is to win these races. They're Group One races. They all take a lot of winning."

Wannabe Grand is the former horse trade, judged on her second place behind Binti Allay in the Lowther Stakes at York, but she is unlikely to start favourably. That privilege will probably belong to Circle Of Gold, who is trained by Peter Chapple-Hyam and has started odds-on for all three of her races, winning two and finishing second in the other.

Chapple-Hyam has seen most of his best two-year-olds of recent seasons sold to race for Godolphin at three, so he may approach today's race with

Of mixed feelings. Whether Circle K horses like the Cape Verdi and City Honors seems a little doubtful, though, but sea will certainly make the market for putters who want to back WANNABE GRAND (map 2.06). Noseed's runner was a good fourth in the Mayfield Stud Stakes, a place ahead of Sunday's big race winner, Sunspangled. The 4-1 price, William Hill is a very fair price.

advertis is the extraordinary range of talent to be found among the lots offered for sale, even at a top auction. Today's race is no different, with horses of very variable ability in opposition, although Smart



Triomphe's Cheveley Park Stakes

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FORM GUIDE

Circle O Gold: Newbury maiden winner *Imperial Beauty* and then landed a Group 3 event at Goodwood (7/5). May have to improve a little bit now, but looks to have scope. **Flinders:** Did not have much luck when 3rd in *Lower Stakes* at Ascot (won 14/4 & 2nd 12/1) to *Black Alky* and *Warradale* respectively. **Warradale:** Maiden winner of *Warradale* and *Warradale* but very well covered when he has been on the go (won 14/4 and led on the line when winning the *Mill Point* *Black Alky* at Newbury test time. Should go close *Imperial Beauty*: Chased home *Circle O Gold* on her debut at Newbury test month and then won a 4-runners condition event at Salisbury. Up against some affairs here, but could be a contender.

Miss University: Third under top weight in a nursery at Doncaster test time and occupied the same position in a Group 3 at Sandown. Does not look good enough on that form. **Optional:** Still a maiden (disqualified from first place after hanging back at Windsor in June).

Warradale: Maiden winner of *Warradale* and *Warradale* but very well covered when he has been on the go (won 14/4 and led on the line when winning the *Mill Point* *Black Alky* at Newbury test time. Should go close *Imperial Beauty*: Chased home *Circle O Gold* on her debut at Newbury test month and then won a 4-runners condition event at Salisbury. Up against some affairs here, but could be a contender.

Sublime: Confirmed promise of debut when winning a *Yarmouth* maiden easily. Takes a big step in class, but her stable are having a tremendous season with their two-year-olds. **Warradale:** Maiden winner of *Warradale* and *Warradale* but very well covered when he has been on the go (won 14/4 and led on the line when winning the *Mill Point* *Black Alky* at Newbury test time. Should go close *Imperial Beauty*: Chased home *Circle O Gold* on her debut at Newbury test month and then won a 4-runners condition event at Salisbury. Up against some affairs here, but could be a contender.

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VERDICT: *Black Alky* looks a particularly competitive *Chewley Park* as *Golden Silence* goes from strength to strength. *Warradale* is a very good horse, but *Imperial Beauty* and *Flinders* are yet to run a true race in top class company. *SUREN* had an easy task in a *Yarmouth* maiden on her second outing, but her yard have a high strike rate with their two-year-olds this season. David Lloyd, who won this last year and in 1997, is a very good judge of form.

FORM GUIDE

Bluebird: Deftly bawdy in the market (1st 10 to 15-20) but almost made a successful debut at Sandown this month when she hit 2nd to Bathwick. Sure to win a maiden, but this inkler lacks herder.

Blackbird: Expected as thorough, he would be suited by further time. 4th in his debut at Ascot (8th in July, only had a long behind substandard Glomacree winner Linn Alghout at 3rd). Sure to come on in his experience.

Blewgrass: Among the outsiders on his first outing at Windsor in May and made no headway. Has no record. He is a good-looking gelding, but needs a fortune here.

Edifice: Coby by Camell House out of a mare who won in Japan. Stable two-year-olds have had a quiet season so far.

Ed: Gentle Dissonance gelding and a half-brother to several winners. One of three Barry Hills runners and pointers suggest he is not the first flying.

Faircloth: Showed some promise on his debut at Thirk, but made no show at Nottingham next time when a 4th chance. Has a lot more to do against this unproven opposition.

Fatherless: Deafest coat out of a lightly sired mare from a stable that has had only two winners in the last 10 years.

Gamey Trotter: Coby to stay and was a 50-1 chance more than 3rd of 5 at Leicester (7th last week). Stable have had one 2-yr-old winner the season and looks out of his depth.

Grownsaver: Flyer had 2nd to Dolphin Street and stable second string.

Gun: Gun Cutler out of a mare who won in Japan. He is a good-looking gelding and jumps well.

Happy: Six of the stable's ten winners this season have been 2-yr-olds.

Krislike: Coby at Solihull and a brother to two winners, including middle distance performer Pumpkin. Stable not rated for his first time out 2-yr-old winners.

Linn Alghout: Bred to stay middle distance. He is a 50-1 chance (13th in 17th last Houston time on debut at Yarmouth). Not beaten far and will find easier opportunities.

NEWMARKET

1.05: With doubts surrounding many of his rivals, **RAKEEB** can continue his progress with a third win on the trot.
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1.35: **Schnitzel** and **SARRAIA** both have good nursery form, with the latter confidently expected to improve on what she showed behind Hoh Steam-er at Newcastle.
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2.05: **GOLDEN SILCA** can crown a magnificent season for Mick Channon and take his winnings past the £600,000 mark. This tough filly thrives on racing and the going was too fast for

HYPERION

TV TIPS

finished out of the frame. Ascot in July. Overnight he would be a bonus, but she can with a sustained run to win Mill Reef Stakes on good ground at Newbury last time.
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3.45: **SMART SAVANNAH** was in such taking style at Sandown that he has to be given the edge ahead of other promising individuals such as **Hinston** Tri-

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| 3 | 110060 | WILLY WILLY (66) Gs H Gickel H Cansley 3 0 0 0 | Nicola Wolfe (1) 0 |
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| 5 | 100040 | CENTRAL COMMITTEE (7) H Cansley P Croyne-Hume 3 8 4 0 | City Boatracer (3) 2 |
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| Rakett | 1-2 | 5-1 | 5-1 | 5-1 | 5-1 |
| Rainbow High | 6-1 | 6-1 | 6-1 | 6-1 | 6-1 |
| Stella's Day | 6-1 | 7-1 | 7-1 | 7-1 | 7-1 |
| Therapists | 1-2 | 5-1 | 5-2 | 1-2 | 7-4 |
| Indulgences | 6-1 | 6-1 | 6-1 | 6-1 | 6-1 |
| St. Louis | 5-1 | 5-1 | 5-1 | 5-1 | 5-1 |
| Stable Hands | 14-1 | 14-1 | 14-1 | 14-1 | 14-1 |
| Prayer House | 1-2 | 14-1 | 14-1 | 14-1 | 14-1 |

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22 003005 PLANO FMN (USA) (C) (Ms C) Grogan H Chaballings 7 8 2C Coggen (S) 29
23 003006 GREAT MEADOWS (CAN) (C) (Ms C) Grogan H Chaballings 7 8 2C Coggen (S) 29
24 003007 BEARH WHITE (BIA) (A) (Ms C) J & R Gading P Flanco 7 8 3R Bratford (S) 30
25 000-03 HANTRY SHOOT (GB) (Ms C) J & R Gading M Plets 4 7 10Angela Hartley (S) 30

BETTING: 1-B Tyteytor, Super Moments, 104 Royal Legend, 124 Diamond Flame, Carlye Cwynn,
London Be Good, Shattlesliffe, Edge Magic, 144 others
1997: First Kinsport 3 9 0 Milligan 3 4 1 (C) Wiggly dream 8 4 w/n

FORM GUIDE

Diamond Flame: Who has lengthy absence to overcome as he has not run since appearing
not to stay 12 at Doncaster in June. Won twice on the 4th weather and has a soft task

Carlye Cwynn: Improved when fitted with a weight in win handicaps here and at Warwick.
Respectable 5th off a 13lb higher mark at Epsom in June, but has his first outing since 1st

Willy Willy: Won a maiden on de dust at Unghfield in June and then head plenty to do
on his next two outings. Bred to stay and this looks on the short side

Super Moments: Has been the star attraction so far. Locked an unlikely victory at Windsor
(14th last month) and was a good loser there. He will have to get off at Ascot last season.

Central Committee: Won over this distance at Warwick in July, but ran no mark of race
over a longer trip at York last time. Is steadily coming back down the handicap again
but still has some way to go before he can hope to challenge for the top. His first attempt
at the distance at Doncaster last time. Best watched for the time being

3.45 **TATTERSALLS HOUTEN HAGEN SALES STAKES**
(CLASS B) \$25,000 2YO F 7 Penalty Weight £24,760

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ber, who returns from a lengthy absence. Tries 101 for the
verment when slapped up to 7m last time

London Be Good: Made all to win over 1m at Doncaster in July and then ran a creditable 5th off a 5lb handicap at Windsor. Did not appear to enjoy the hot early start at the Shalfleet race in late June at present and won a conditions event at Nottingham last time after being just beaten in a handicap at Haydock. Stable in excellent form. **Stable View:** The Foreigners are in good form and may be sent to the farm for his new year. Staged strongly to finish 2nd at Kempton (1st) but lost. **Lucky Dip:** Desponding until winning a stake at Leicester last week. Beaten in a handicap at Doncaster last time. **Questionnaire:** Consistent in taking company over this trip. Has been his second race in three days when 4th at Warwick last time. This looks too competitive for him. **Stable View:** Has been in good form and may be sent to the farm for his 5lb handicap when faced at Doncaster next time. Likely to be thereabouts again. **Our People:** Has ability, but is a bradky ride and threw away a race at Ayr by sending. **Stable View:** Training at Doncaster in good form and has a chance of a place. **Paria Tattler:** Not particularly reliable, but worth a try if it does good again. Will win over this trip at Chester in July. Don't mouth much about in a wide-open looking

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Cassandra Gray (3rd April, 2000000) gains offspring of Indian Ridge and claim of Coventry Sables winner Verity. Was originally a Cheshire Park gelding, but she was sold to a Frenchman, who bred her to a French stallion. She has three races since, making little impact, last of 8 when upped to 1st at Goodwood last week.

Kiss Me Goodnight: 45000-guinea Flat Thruze filly out of very good dam. Won 1st of 2 races, 1st of 2 when upped to 1st at Goodwood last week. In Group Silled company since. Likely to find one or two good for her on that form.

Queen Of The Keys: By Royal Academy, Eighth of 8 in 8 Goodwood maiden races, 1st of 2 when upped to 1st at Goodwood last week. In Group Silled company since. Likely to find one or two good for her on that form.

Unfold: 10000-guinea Flat Hind Ransome attractive colt who showed 1st of 2 races, 1st of 2 when upped to 1st at Goodwood last week.

VERDICT: Some of these have already been tried in group events and must be respected, most notably Thunder Sky, while Dehouslet's listed race performance also makes good meaning, but there are several others graduating from a lower grade to a higher one of no real merit. The only one of these to be followed is the 1st of 2 when upped to 1st at Goodwood last week, and the 1st of 2 when upped to 1st at Goodwood last week.

Savannah and **SOGUSS VLE**. The last-named comes from a fine family, is a good-

HONEY BUCKLE (84d), 10-1 Indy Knight, Mulliken, 20-1 Cumbria, 10-1 Tealie Knight, Silver Stakes, 25-1 Foxhunter, 30-1 Deutsch-mann, Parsiparis, (84d).

18 ran, ind. 1-2, 2-3, 2-4, 2-5, 2-6, 2-7, 2-8, 2-9, 2-10, 2-11, 2-12, 2-13, 2-14, 2-15, 2-16, 2-17, 2-18, 2-19, 2-20, 2-21, 2-22, 2-23, 2-24, 2-25, 2-26, 2-27, 2-28, 2-29, 2-30, 2-31, 2-32, 2-33, 2-34, 2-35, 2-36, 2-37, 2-38, 2-39, 2-40, 2-41, 2-42, 2-43, 2-44, 2-45, 2-46, 2-47, 2-48, 2-49, 2-50, 2-51, 2-52, 2-53, 2-54, 2-55, 2-56, 2-57, 2-58, 2-59, 2-60, 2-61, 2-62, 2-63, 2-64, 2-65, 2-66, 2-67, 2-68, 2-69, 2-70, 2-71, 2-72, 2-73, 2-74, 2-75, 2-76, 2-77, 2-78, 2-79, 2-80, 2-81, 2-82, 2-83, 2-84, 2-85, 2-86, 2-87, 2-88, 2-89, 2-90, 2-91, 2-92, 2-93, 2-94, 2-95, 2-96, 2-97, 2-98, 2-99, 2-100, 2-101, 2-102, 2-103, 2-104, 2-105, 2-106, 2-107, 2-108, 2-109, 2-110, 2-111, 2-112, 2-113, 2-114, 2-115, 2-116, 2-117, 2-118, 2-119, 2-120, 2-121, 2-122, 2-123, 2-124, 2-125, 2-126, 2-127, 2-128, 2-129, 2-130, 2-131, 2-132, 2-133, 2-134, 2-135, 2-136, 2-137, 2-138, 2-139, 2-140, 2-141, 2-142, 2-143, 2-144, 2-145, 2-146, 2-147, 2-148, 2-149, 2-150, 2-151, 2-152, 2-153, 2-154, 2-155, 2-156, 2-157, 2-158, 2-159, 2-160, 2-161, 2-162, 2-163, 2-164, 2-165, 2-166, 2-167, 2-168, 2-169, 2-170, 2-171, 2-172, 2-173, 2-174, 2-175, 2-176, 2-177, 2-178, 2-179, 2-180, 2-181, 2-182, 2-183, 2-184, 2-185, 2-186, 2-187, 2-188, 2-189, 2-190, 2-191, 2-192, 2-193, 2-194, 2-195, 2-196, 2-197, 2-198, 2-199, 2-200, 2-201, 2-202, 2-203, 2-204, 2-205, 2-206, 2-207, 2-208, 2-209, 2-210, 2-211, 2-212, 2-213, 2-214, 2-215, 2-216, 2-217, 2-218, 2-219, 2-220, 2-221, 2-222, 2-223, 2-224, 2-225, 2-226, 2-227, 2-228, 2-229, 2-230, 2-231, 2-232, 2-233, 2-234, 2-235, 2-236, 2-237, 2-238, 2-239, 2-240, 2-241, 2-242, 2-243, 2-244, 2-245, 2-246, 2-247, 2-248, 2-249, 2-250, 2-251, 2-252, 2-253, 2-254, 2-255, 2-256, 2-257, 2-258, 2-259, 2-260, 2-261, 2-262, 2-263, 2-264, 2-265, 2-266, 2-267, 2-268, 2-269, 2-270, 2-271, 2-272, 2-273, 2-274, 2-275, 2-276, 2-277, 2-278, 2-279, 2-280, 2-281, 2-282, 2-283, 2-284, 2-285, 2-286, 2-287, 2-288, 2-289, 2-290, 2-291, 2-292, 2-293, 2-294, 2-295, 2-296, 2-297, 2-298, 2-299, 2-300, 2-301, 2-302, 2-303, 2-304, 2-305, 2-306, 2-307, 2-308, 2-309, 2-310, 2-311, 2-312, 2-313, 2-314, 2-315, 2-316, 2-317, 2-318, 2-319, 2-320, 2-321, 2-322, 2-323, 2-324, 2-325, 2-326, 2-327, 2-328, 2-329, 2-330, 2-331, 2-332, 2-333, 2-334, 2-335, 2-336, 2-337, 2-338, 2-339, 2-340, 2-341, 2-342, 2-343, 2-344, 2-345, 2-346, 2-347, 2-348, 2-349, 2-350, 2-351, 2-352, 2-353, 2-354, 2-355, 2-356, 2-357, 2-358, 2-359, 2-360, 2-361, 2-362, 2-363, 2-364, 2-365, 2-366, 2-367, 2-368, 2-369, 2-370, 2-371, 2-372, 2-373, 2-374, 2-375, 2-376, 2-377, 2-378, 2-379, 2-380, 2-381, 2-382, 2-383, 2-384, 2-385, 2-386, 2-387, 2-388, 2-389, 2-390, 2-391, 2-392, 2-393, 2-394, 2-395, 2-396, 2-397, 2-398, 2-399, 2-400, 2-401, 2-402, 2-403, 2-404, 2-405, 2-406, 2-407, 2-408, 2-409, 2-410, 2-411, 2-412, 2-413, 2-414, 2-415, 2-416, 2-417, 2-418, 2-419, 2-420, 2-421, 2-422, 2-423, 2-424, 2-425, 2-426, 2-427, 2-428, 2-429, 2-430, 2-431, 2-432, 2-433, 2-434, 2-435, 2-436, 2-437, 2-438, 2-439, 2-440, 2-441, 2-442, 2-443, 2-444, 2-445, 2-446, 2-447, 2-448, 2-449, 2-450, 2-451, 2-452, 2-453, 2-454, 2-455, 2-456, 2-457, 2-458, 2-459, 2-460, 2-461, 2-462, 2-463, 2-464, 2-465, 2-466, 2-467, 2-468, 2-469, 2-470, 2-471, 2-472, 2-473, 2-474, 2-475, 2-476, 2-477, 2-478, 2-479, 2-480, 2-481, 2-482, 2-483, 2-484, 2-485, 2-486, 2-487, 2-488, 2-489, 2-490, 2-491, 2-492, 2-493, 2-494, 2-495, 2-496, 2-497, 2-498, 2-499, 2-500, 2-501, 2-502, 2-503, 2-504, 2-505, 2-506, 2-507, 2-508, 2-509, 2-510, 2-511, 2-512, 2-513, 2-514, 2-515, 2-516, 2-517, 2-518, 2-519, 2-520, 2-521, 2-522, 2-523, 2-524, 2-525, 2-526, 2-527, 2-528, 2-529, 2-530, 2-531, 2-532, 2-533, 2-534, 2-535, 2-536, 2-537, 2-538, 2-539, 2-540, 2-541, 2-542, 2-543, 2-544, 2-545, 2-546, 2-547, 2-548, 2-549, 2-550, 2-551, 2-552, 2-553, 2-554, 2-555, 2-556, 2-557, 2-558, 2-559, 2-560, 2-561, 2-562, 2-563, 2-564, 2-565, 2-566, 2-567, 2-568, 2-569, 2-570, 2-571, 2-572, 2-573, 2-574, 2-575, 2-576, 2-577, 2-578, 2-579, 2-580, 2-581, 2-582, 2-583, 2-584, 2-585, 2-586, 2-587, 2-588, 2-589,



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McRae leaves job with Britain

THE ST Helens coach, Shaun McRae, has left his other job as assistant to Andy Goodway with the Great Britain team little more than a month before the Test series against New Zealand.

McRae, who becomes the coach of the new Gateshead team after the end of this season, feels that he needs to devote more time to that and will not be able to concentrate on helping Goodway and his squad prepare to face the Kiwis.

"I can't see me being able to be in camp for three weeks," he said. "The new franchise is obviously going to take up a lot of my time so it is better to make a clean break now."

McRae, who has filled a similar role with Australian and New Zealand teams, says there has been no fall-out between him and Goodway. "Andy is pretty upset about it, but he understands my position," he said.

The technical director of the Rugby League, Joe Lydon, said, "Shaun's contribution has been invaluable, but we appreciate that he has other commitments." There are no plans to bring in a replacement before the series begins.

McRae is concerned about one of his signings for Gateshead, the Canterbury second-rower Tony Grimaldi, who had an outstanding game in their defeat by the Brisbane Broncos in the Australian Grand Final but had to go off with a serious shoulder injury.

Meanwhile, a former Great Britain international is appealing to Goodway not to forget about him for the forthcoming series. Lee Jackson was unveiled as a Leeds player yesterday and said that he still hoped to make the Test squad, despite not being able to play for his new club until next year because Sheffield Eagles still hold his registration.

The Leeds coach, Graham Murray, said that Jackson, who has been playing for the Newcastle Knights in Australia, will be his first-choice hooker next season.

St Helens hope to confirm the signing of Kevin Iro. The for-

RUGBY LEAGUE
BY DAVE HADFIELD

mer Wigan centre, who has been playing for the Auckland Warriors in his native New Zealand, has been lined up as the first major signing under the Ellery Hanley regime at Knowsley Road.

"To say that he has signed or is about to sign would be premature, but he is certainly one that Ellery admires," Saints' football manager, Eric Hughes, said.

One player on the way out of Knowsley Road is Karl Hammond, who has agreed a two-year deal with London Broncos. The 24-year-old has been out of contract at St Helens and was a target for several clubs.

The Broncos' chief executive, Tony Rea, said: "Karl is an exceptionally talented player. His signing is a real coup for the club."

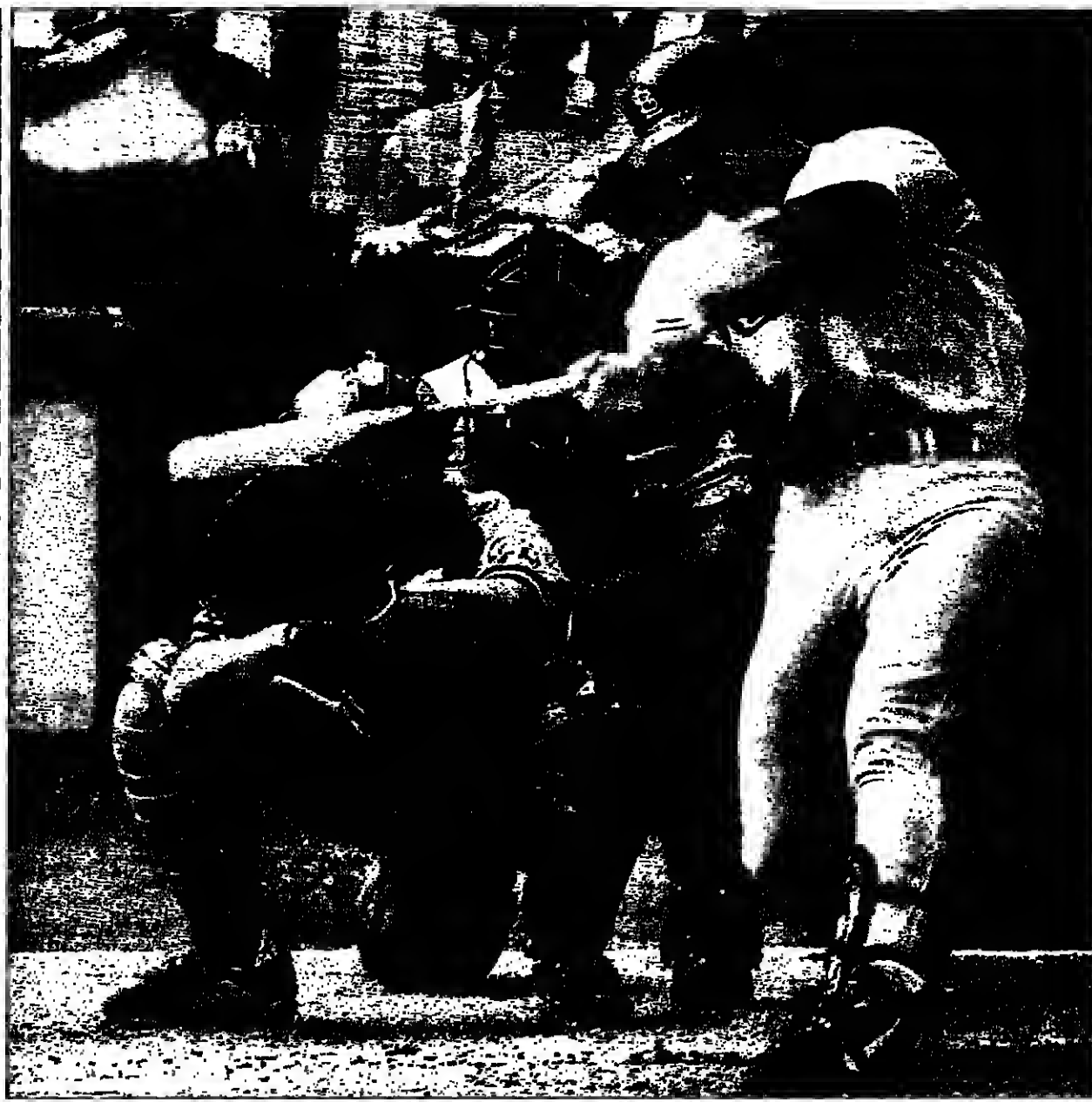
Steve Simms' reward for taking Featherstone so close to the First Division championship is likely to be the offer of a pay cut to stay on.

"We've the highest regard for him, but it is a matter of what we can afford," the Featherstone director Steve Wagner, said. "If we can agree terms with him, I think he will stay, but it's fair to say that we won't be able to offer him what he's getting now."

Featherstone, along with the First Division Grand Final winners, Wakefield Trinity, and the Second Division champions, Lancashire Lynx, go to France this weekend for the first leg of the Treize Tournoi.

Wakefield play a Villeneuve side that should include the Australian Test forward, Paul Fironen, whilst Featherstone take on Limoux and Lancashire go to St Esteve.

Wakefield are well advanced with ground plans which they believe will qualify them for Super League membership next season. They intend to install temporary seating at Belle Vue to bring it up to the required capacity before moving to a new ground at Ossett for 2000.



Mark McGwire hits his 70th home run for the Cardinals against Montreal Expos in St Louis on Sunday AP

Record leaves McGwire in amazed mood

MARK MCGWIRE yesterday admitted that he was confounded by his achievement in reaching the mark of 70 home runs in a season as he celebrated in style. "I can't believe I did it. It's absolutely amazing," McGwire said. "It blows me away. Reaching the 70 plateau - I never, ever thought about it."

The number 70 was handed about on 8 September after McGwire had recorded his 62nd to break Roger Maris' mark of 61, which had stood for 37 years. "When I reached 62 so early in September everyone said to shoot for 70," McGwire said. "I went into the clubhouse after I was taken out and they already had a hat [with the number 70 on it] made."

McGwire went three-for-three for St Louis Cardinals against Montreal Expos on Sunday, connecting for a solo shot in the third inning and breaking a 3-3 deadlock with a three-run blast in the seventh. His 10th multi-homer game of the season moved him four in front of Sammy Sosa, of the Chicago Cubs, and gave him an astounding nine more home runs than Maris.

Sosa failed to homer yesterday but his Cubs earned a match with San Francisco for the National League wild-card place in the play-offs. Any home runs Sosa hits in the one-game

play-off late last night will count in his regular-season total but four is a tall order, especially for a player more concerned with getting his team into the post-season. However, Sosa's presence has made McGwire's drive for Maris' record all the more compelling.

McGwire said: "I'm glad I've been associated with Sammy Sosa. It's been a great year for everyone. I'm absolutely exhausted. I don't think you can use your mind any more playing baseball. I've amazed myself that I've stayed in a tunnel for so long. It just proves to me I can overcome anything with the strength of my mind."

Meanwhile, Bernie Williams, Larry Walker and Greg Vaughn also managed breakthroughs in a season dominated by McGwire.

Williams won his first American League batting title on Sunday, going 3-for-2 in another historic New York Yankees win. He finished at .339, two points higher than Boston's Mo Vaughn but the lowest average for an AL champion since George Brett hit .329 in 1990.

Walker also won his first batting prize, going 2-for-4 for Colorado to wind up at .363, nine points ahead of John Olerud, of the New York Mets.

Eagles face stern test at Bracknell

AYR SCOTTISH Eagles face their toughest test yet in the defence of the Benson and Hedges Cup after being drawn against Bracknell Bees in the quarter-finals.

Eagles' only defeat in six round-robin group matches came from the Bees, who recorded a 5-1 home win over the Grand Slam winners - and beat them to top spot in the table.

Although Ayr recognise any tie will be difficult, their 28-year-old Canadian forward Karry Biette admitted that Bracknell was probably the worst draw they could have had. "If you had to pick one it would be Bracknell because of what they did to us in the round-robin," he said.

"We did not fare too well in their rink but beat them at home. Bracknell have changed quite a lot and they seem to be gelling together early in the season. It will be a good battle."

The London Knights coach, Jim Fuyarchuk, who saw his men pick up their first wins

ICE HOCKEY
BY STUART WALLACE

against the Guildford Flames at the weekend, was relishing meeting Cardiff Devils.

"Cardiff look - as they have been in the past - really tough, really competitive," Fuyarchuk said. "There is no doubt we are going to have our hands full."

Newcastle Riverkings pair Blake Knox and Jim Mathieson face their former club, Nottingham Panthers.

In the other quarter-final, Group B winners Manchester Storm meet Sheffield Steelers. Little separated the pair in the round-robin matches, one game ending in a draw while Storm nicked the other by one goal. A close tie is expected again.

BRISTOL AND HEDGECOCK CUP Quarter-finals Cardiff Devils v London Knights; Bracknell Bees v Ayr Scottish Eagles; Sheffield Steelers v Manchester Storm; Nottingham Panthers v Newcastle Riverkings. BENSON AND HEDGES PLAYOFF Quarter-finals: Edinburgh Capitals v Guildford Flames; Telford Tigers v Kingston Hawks; Fife Flyers v Peterborough Phoenix; Paisley Pirates v Slough Jets.

Vintage Young eclipses youth

THE 1998 American football season promised to be one dominated by the exploits of a new breed of exciting young quarterbacks. Instead, a month into the current campaign, the old guard are holding firm with a vengeance.

Steve Young, the San Francisco 49ers' inappropriately named playmaker, will celebrate his 37th birthday in a matter of days, but just like Denver's John Elway, Dan Marino of the Miami Dolphins and the Seattle Seahawks' Warren Moon, he shows no signs of slowing down.

On Sunday, Young tore the Atlanta Falcons to pieces, the 49ers winning 31-20, a scoreline that masks the fact that the 49ers scored on their first five possessions and simply looked in a different class to their previously unbeaten rivals.

Young completed 28 of his 39 pass attempts for 387 yards and three touchdowns, and could have had a lot more if the 49ers elected to press home their superiority in the second half. In three games to date this

AMERICAN FOOTBALL
BY NICK HALLING

season, Young has thrown for more than 300 yards and three touchdowns each time, the first such streak of his 14-year career. At this rate, he will surpass the numbers he achieved in 1992, when he was named the league's most valuable player.

"I can't imagine ever being more comfortable than I was in 1992, but over the years you do get smarter," he said. "You have a much better handle on the full orchestra, the trombones, everything."

A naturally modest man, Young is not the type to blow his own trumpet, yet the fact that San Francisco have generated more than 500 yards of offense every game this season is a tribute to his mastery of the game.

He is also assisted by Jerry Rice, the greatest receiver ever to play the game. Last season, Rice's career hung in the balance as he shattered his right

knee in the first game of the campaign, only to rush his return and fracture the same kneecap.

Now, after a summer of rehabilitation, the only man in history to catch 1,000 passes looks close to his best. On Sunday, he was simply too good for the Falcons, catching touchdown passes of 66 and 28 yards from Young. The two have combined for a total of 78 touchdowns, one short of the record held by Marino and Mark Clayton, the prolific partnership who thrived in Miami for much of the 1980s.

A hamstring injury has slowed John Elway over the past two weeks, so he decided to sit it out as his Denver Broncos visited the hapless Washington Redskins. It proved to be the correct decision, his replacement, Bubba Brister, throwing two touchdowns, and the running back Terrell Davis gaining 119 yards on the ground as the Broncos prevailed 38-16.

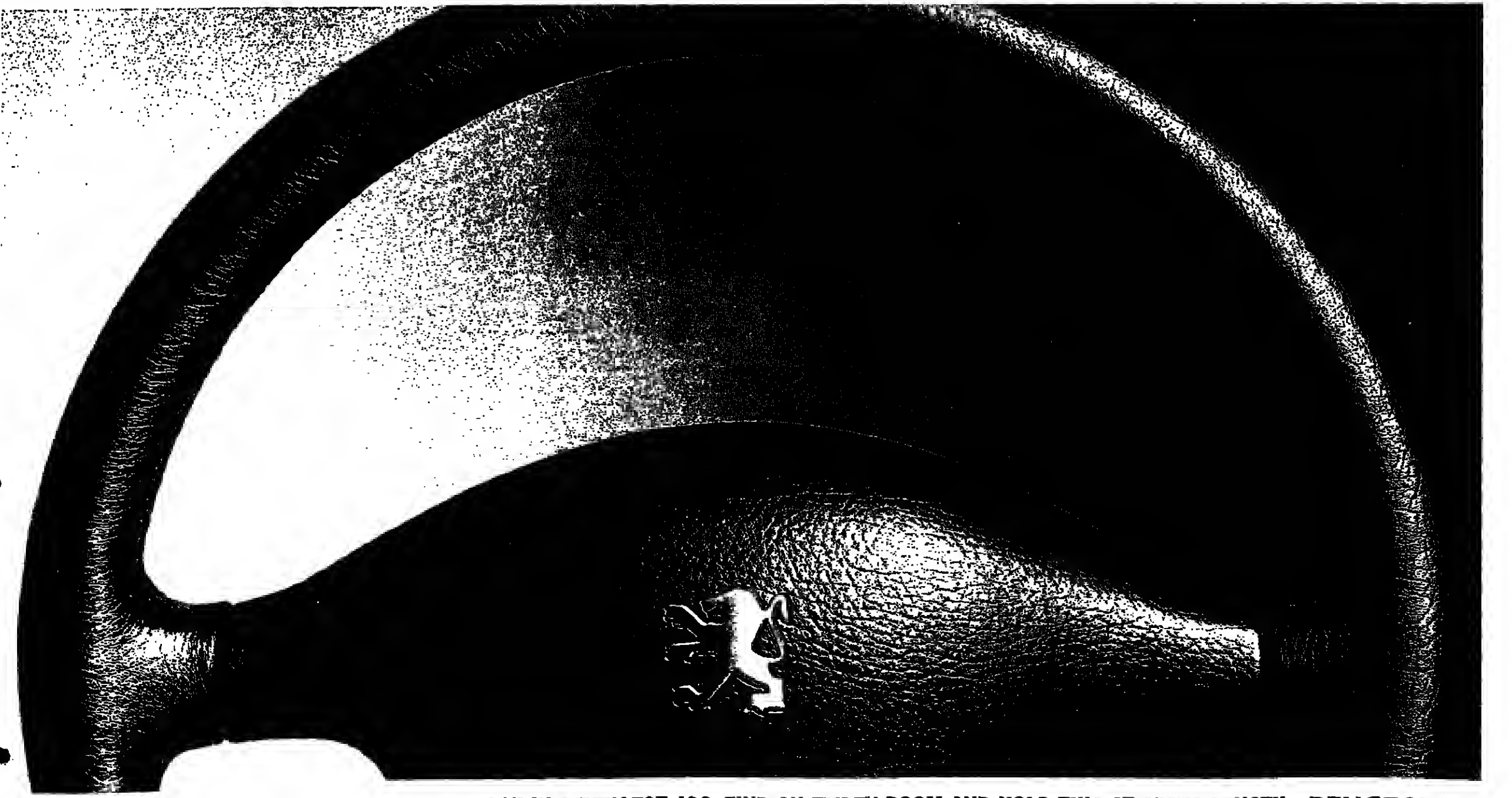
If San Francisco and Denver look the best of the bunch after the early skirmishes, the Green Bay Packers cannot be dis-

counted while their quarterback, Brett Favre, continues to produce. Favre makes mistakes, as shown by his three interceptions against the Carolina Panthers, but he also makes plays. His five touchdown passes ensured a hard-earned 37-30 victory in Charlotte, and confirmed once again that Favre is one of that rare breed of players with the ability to determine a game's outcome.

As for the new boys, their travels continue. Peyton Manning threw three more interceptions as the Indianapolis Colts lost in overtime to the New Orleans Saints.

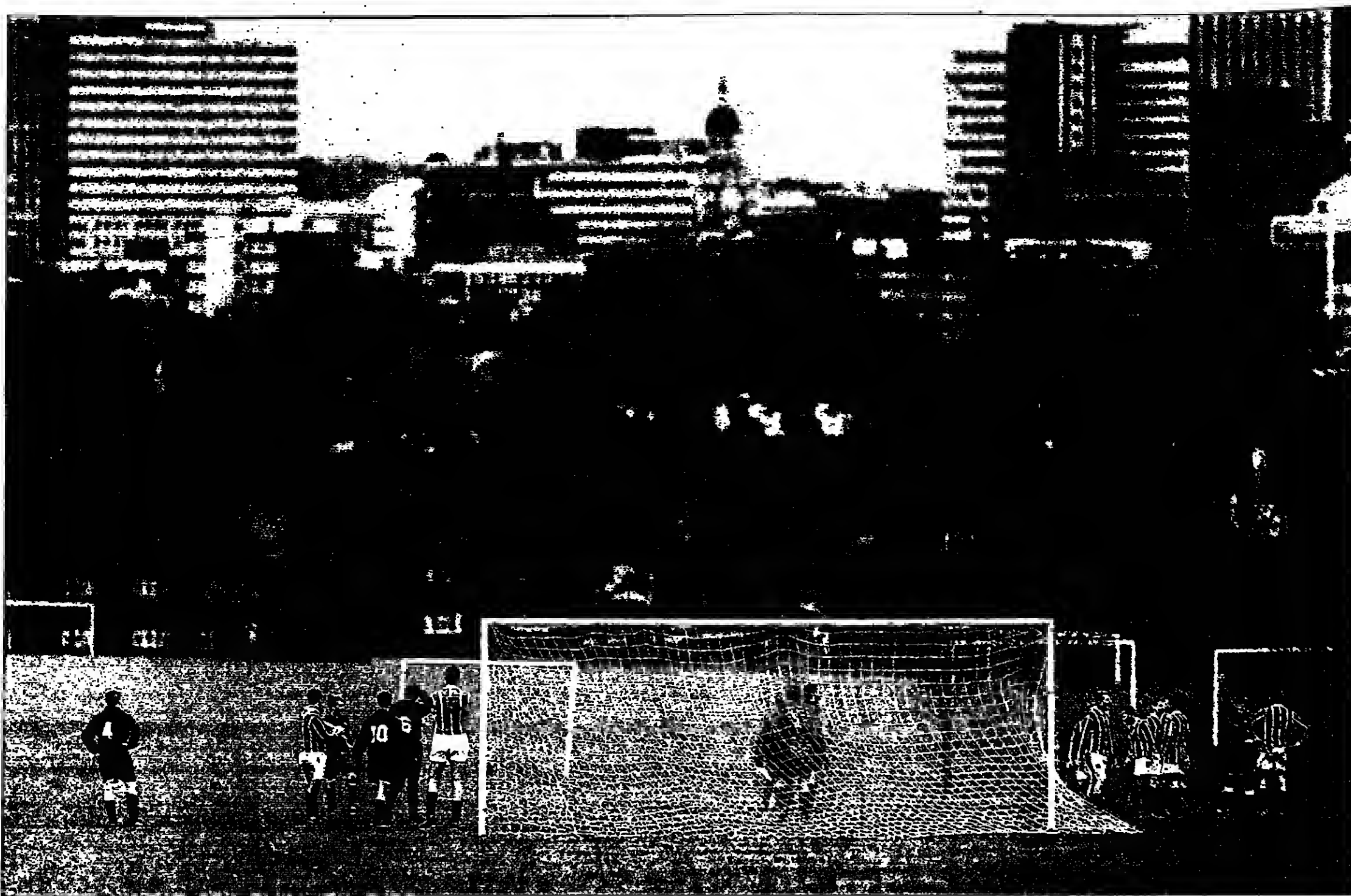
Meanwhile, things go from bad to worse for Ryan Leaf. The young San Diego quarterback must have thought he had hit rock bottom when completing just one of 15 pass attempts last week. He was wrong: against the New York Giants, Leaf literally threw the game away, giving up four interceptions before being replaced by his exasperated coach, Kevin Gilbride.

Results, Digest, page 26



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A typical weekend scene in a Croydon park. In the 1996-97 season, there were 293 proven cases of assaults on referees, according to the FA disciplinary unit

Peter Jay

Italian had a 'short fuse'

DAVID PLEAT, the man who brought Paolo Di Canio to Sheffield Wednesday, said yesterday that he always had the feeling that the Italian's stay at Hillsborough was going to be short-lived.

Pleat, now the caretaker coach at Tottenham, signed Di Canio for £4.5m from Celtic in the summer of 1997. However, he soon realised that the striker with "fantastic ability but a very short fuse" would not be around for long and Saturday's attack on referee Paul Alcock looks to have ensured his premature departure.

"I don't think there is any doubt about it now, this is the third manager he's played under there," Pleat said. "Paolo was incredible, he worked very hard in training and he loves the game. But he's a bit of a gypsy, he never played for any club for too long."

The 30-year-old striker, who had only just patched up his differences with Danny Wilson after being labelled a "fancy dan" by the Wednesday manager, now faces a misconduct charge from the Football Association as well as being suspended by his club.

"When he was at Celtic, I spoke to Tommy Burns about him, as a person and as a player," Pleat told Radio 5 Live. "He didn't have any problems like fighting but he had this temperament problem where he wanted to argue with referees' decisions and throw his hands in the air."

"And while he was throwing his hands in the air and making gestures, the free-kick has been taken and your team is defending one man short."

"He is not easy to cope with in a team situation because he only sees things through his own eyes, he can't see them for the good of the group rather than himself."

"I don't think Paolo was one of those people who wanted to fight people and hit people. He just had a kind of theatrical temperament, maybe something to do with his background."

Pleat recalled an amusing incident between Ron Atkinson, his successor at Wednesday, and Di Canio. "After one particular game away from home, Ron accused him of being a part-timer - in other words he plays when they are at home but he doesn't put in so much when they are away from home."

"And Paolo said: 'No, no, no! I am full-time, I train every day. I come every day - it is you that is the part-timer, you only come in occasionally!'"

On a day when allies were thin on the ground, Di Canio found support from Benito Carbone, his fellow Italian and Wednesday team-mate.

"He likes his work, he likes everything in England," Carbone said, "and now I think he cries for what he has done."

Fear that haunts park referees

For the men in black of the local leagues, far away from the crowds and the television cameras, violence from players happens all too often. By Nick Harris

WHILE PAOLO Di Canio's assault on the referee, Paul Alcock, on Saturday was being captured on television cameras (ensuring, in theory, that the Italian will be properly punished), thousands of officials up and down the country were risking the unrecorded wrath of players who took a dislike to their decisions.

Although some representatives from the country's local leagues said yesterday that the game is no more violent than in the past, more voiced concerns for the safety of their officials. "It's alarming," said Jim Parker, the discipline officer at the Lancashire Football Association. "Assaults are definitely going up."

Last season, he said, there were 15 proven cases in his county. This season seven assaults are already under investigation and new cases are happening each week. Football has always had a problem with referee recruitment, he added, but now the problem is intensifying.

"There's a real shortage in the North-west," he said. "Peo-

ple are getting sick of the intimidation."

It is not hard to find referees for whom abuse has been more than verbal. Phil Morris, an former referee with the Manchester County FA, was assaulted four years ago. His experience in the UniBond League, the Pontins League and the Football Conference did not help him on the Sunday morning he was attacked while in charge of a local league game.

"I'd cautioned a player for an offence," he said, "and the next minute - wallop. It wasn't a push. It was a crack in the face. I ended up with a broken tooth and a swollen nose. I abandoned the game."

The FA took charge of matters and the player was suspended for four months.

"I didn't change my attitude," he added, although he retired the following year. "We are losing far too many local league ref-

erees] through indiscipline [against them]," Morris added. "It's a lot easier the further up the ladder you go."

The Manchester County FA recorded 42 assaults against referees last year, a figure that must lead some to question whether the endeavour is worth the rewards. Local league officials receive £12 per game, rising to £22 per game at county level.

Gordon Taylor, the chief executive of the Professional Footballers' Association, said yesterday that violence towards officials was leading to a recruitment problem. "There's a problem at recruiting referees particularly at grass-roots level because tempers can get inflamed," he said. "We've had quite a number of physical assaults on referees at this level."

In the 1996-97 season - the last year for which national figures are available - there

were 293 proven cases of assaults on referees, according to the FA disciplinary unit. The offences are split into three categories. A Grade A assault, of which there were 209 incidents, includes any common assault, from knocking the referee's book from his hands to man-

'I'd cautioned a player, and the next minute - wallop. It wasn't a push, it was a crack in the face'

handling. A Grade B assault, of which there were 72, is an offence involving attempted bodily harm. A Grade C assault, of which 12 were proven, involves causing actual bodily harm. The penalties for the offences run from a 182-day ban and £100

fine for a Grade A assault, to a *sine die* suspension and £200 fine (with no appeal for five years) for a Grade B offence, to permanent suspension from all football for a Grade C misdemeanour.

To give an indication of how serious even the more minor offences can be, an FA spokesman said that Paolo Di Canio's shove on Paul Alcock would not even count as a Grade A assault. The spokesman added, however, that the 293 proven assaults in 1996-97 showed just "a very small percentage" of incidents from all football matches around the country. The FA figures would include some 1 million-plus games involving 44,000 clubs. "But one assault is too many," said the spokesman. "We don't want people to touch referees. They should be sacrosanct."

David Fowkes, of the London FA, an area in which assaults

have dropped from 39 two seasons ago to 17 last season, believes the problem should not be blown out of proportion. "I'm anxious we don't create a wave of terror," he said. He added, however: "We've had referees badly hurt. Punched, knocked out, lose a couple of teeth. It's very rare, so I don't want people to think it goes on all the time."

The main difference for local league referees, says Fowkes, is that the official does not have the kind of support network offered by television cameras and a crowd, who might sometimes act as witnesses. "The referee is out there on his own," he said.

Barry Rowland, a referee in the area under Fowkes's jurisdiction, found himself in such a situation last year. "I was doing a Saturday afternoon game in the Wimbledon and District League," he said. "It was a cup game and a bit fiery. I'd allowed

a goal that one side thought was offside and their goalkeeper ran from his goalmouth to the centre and kicked me in the back. I went down face-first, got myself up a bit and was pushed again." Rowland abandoned the game, and the offending player was suspended for a year. The player's team was heavily fined.

"I put me off for three weeks, but I went back," said Rowland, who still referees regularly. "I think that it was an isolated incident, but it's fair to say there is still a lot of verbal abuse."

Rowland believes Di Canio's case could be an important landmark for referees at all levels of football, but especially in the lesser leagues. "If Di Canio gets dealt with harshly, it could be good for the game and people will see they can't get away with it," he said. "If not, it won't set a very good example to young people and others who play."

What the FA decides to do with Di Canio, it seems, will be more important for officials on parish with no spectators than in stadiums with tens of thousands.

Anderton has seen the light

DARREN ANDERTON has come to the England coach Glenn Hoddle's aid by praising the faith healer, Eileen Drewery, for helping his latest recovery from injury.

Hoddle's use of Drewery has caused concern among Football Association officials, but she has received unqualified praise from Anderton, who attributes his early recovery from a knee injury to her healing methods. "I saw Eileen a couple of times after the injury and that helped," he said. "I am very happy. I thought it would be another long one but I was back in two-and-a-half weeks."

Bobby Gould yesterday included Robbie Savage in his squad for Wales' European Championship qualifiers in Denmark on 10 October and at home to Belarus on 14 October.

The Leicester midfielder has been forgiven for his indiscretions prior to the game against Italy earlier this month, when he upset his manager by making allegedly abusive remarks about the Italians in a television interview.

WALLES SQUARES P Jones (Southampton), Ward (North County), Crossley (Northampton Forest), Symons (Preston), Williams (Wolves), Coleman (Preston), Bernard (Doncaster), Mahoney (Sunderland), Johnson (Northampton Forest), Hughes (Southampton), Speed (Newcastle), Savage (Leicester), Pennington (Sheff Wed), Blake (Bolton), Glegg (Manchester Utd), Holloman (Charlton), Sawyers (Sheff Wed Utd), Hartless (West Ham), Roberts (Norwich), Tredwell (Preston).

Australia indulge taste in goals as Cook Islands are roasted

AUSTRALIA

AUSTRALIA SCORED one of the biggest victories in international football history when they thrashed the Cook Islands 16-0 in Brisbane yesterday in the second round of the Oceania Nations Cup.

The Socceroos, despite missing their Europe-based players such as Harry Kewell of Leeds United and Mark Bosnich of Aston Villa, hopelessly outclassed the part-timers from the Cook Islands with eight goals in each half.

Damian Mori and Robert Trujovski scored four each while Paul Trimball hit a hat-trick.

Australia's total was just one less than the world record 17-0 victory Iran recorded over the Maldives Islands in a qualifying match for this year's World Cup. Denmark also once recorded 17 in a match, defeating France 17-1 in the semi-finals of the 1908 Olympic Games in London.

BULGARIA

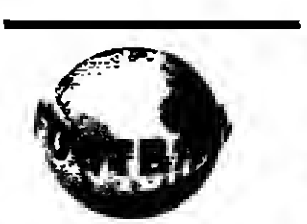
HILLSBOROUGH WAS not the only football ground in Europe to witness scenes of shame this weekend. In Bulgaria, CSKA Sofia and Levski Kyustendil players came to blow and mounted police had to step in to restore order in a local derby, which ended in a 3-2 victory for CSKA.

The trouble flared in the 67th minute with the game level at 2-2. CSKA's former Ipswich and Luton midfielder Boncho Genchev shoved the visiting defender Georgi Petrov, and then Genchev was knocked to the ground by the Kyustendil goalkeeper, Michael Rolev. The CSKA striker Valentin Stanchev attacked Rolev and then players from both sides became involved as the fighting spread. Mounted police stormed the pitch to break up the battle.

CSKA's Genchev and Stanchev were shown the red card and Kyustendil's Petrov was also dismissed. Despite being down to nine men, CSKA took the points when Rumen Krustov grabbed a late winner.

ROMANIA

THERE WERE similar scenes of violence in Romania, where the league leaders, Dynamo Bucharest, blasted eight goals without reply past Universitatea Cluj in a game marred by a mass brawl.



AROUND THE WORLD

EDITED BY RUPERT METCALF

Trouble began when Ion Vladou of Dynamo - a striker who was sent off within minutes of coming on as a substitute in the 1994 World Cup - and the Universitatea defender Dragos Stroe were dismissed after they exchanged blows.

The red cards did nothing to cool tempers, and players from both sides fought before security officials restored order. The referee took no further names after the incident, and Dynamo went on to win 8-0.

Meanwhile, the coach of

another Romanian First Division side, Universitatea Craiova, who is banned for a year for attacking a referee, punched and kicked journalists filming his daughter's wedding last Thursday.

Ilie Balaci had barred reporters trying to make their way into Craiova town hall to cover the wedding of his daughter Lorena to a Universitatea player, Eugen Trica.

Balaci reportedly snubbed abuse at me cameraman and kicked another in the back. Balaci apparently screamed at journalists that no one without an invitation would be admitted to what was a private event.

Earlier this month the Romanian League banned Balaci for a year and fined him for striking a referee in the face with a boot stud.

RUSSIA

REAL MADRID are taking no chances with the weather or the food during their trip to Russia to face Spartak Moscow in the Champions League tomorrow.

The European Cup holders are bringing more than a ton of food and a wardrobe full of

winter sportswear for their trip. To combat the expected zero-degree temperature, Real have packed 20 pairs of gloves, 25 hats and 25 fleece jackets - as well as 25 sleeping bags in case the hotel central heating is not working.

To ensure the team does not go hungry, the club have asked a Madrid restaurant to prepare a huge hamper of food and drink. Included in the haul are 140kg of meat, 120kg of fresh fruit and vegetables, 70kg of fish and 180 eggs. To help that go down, 250 bottles of Spanish wine have been packed - to be consumed after the match, presumably.

GERMANY

MUSTAFA DOGAN, a Turkish native with German citizenship, was named yesterday in a 26-man squad for Germany's upcoming Euro 2000 qualifiers against Turkey and Moldova. The 22-year-old Fenerbahce defender was called up by the former coach, Bert Vogts, for this month's friendlies against Malta and Romania, but did not play. He has been retained by the new coach, Erich Ribbeck.

Squad, Digest, page 26

Everton agree £4.25m fee for Watson

THE EVERTON manager, Walter Smith, agreed a £4.25m fee for Newcastle's Steve Watson last night - and then tried to set up sales of three players to pay for him.

Smith is racing against time as Middlesbrough have also made a move for the versatile Watson, who is surprisingly being sold by Rumb Gullit to raise funds.

While Everton are the only side to have come up with the price Newcastle want, Smith has now been told by his chairman, Peter Johnson, to fund the deal by selling first.

Smith is therefore trying to move out sell the centre-half Carl Tiler back to Sheffield United for £750,000 and to revive a double deal to take Craig Short and Mitch Ward to Nottingham Forest for £2.5m.

Watson's future will be decided on Friday, when Newcastle return from European duty against Partizan Belgrade.

Nottingham Forest's French full-back, Thierry Bonalain, has returned to Paris for treatment on an Achilles tendon tear suffered last week, almost a year to the day that a heel injury cost him 15 games last season.

Forest's manager, Dave Bassett, said: "We are not sure how serious Thierry's injury is."

Joe Royle will be out of Manchester City's dug-out until Christmas, as he is to have a hip replacement operation.

Royle, the City manager, takes his side to Millwall for a Second Division fixture tonight but is then booked into hospital for surgery later this week. He will hand over the day-to-day running of the club to his assistant, Willie Donachie.

Royle still plans to oversee the club during his rehabilitation, but he will not be taking an active role for some time. The Maine Road manager said: "I will be in hospital for up to 10 days and then there is a similar recovery period after that."

"I will be able to go into the club a day at a time following the operation and then I'll be back to normal. But I will be in touch with Willie as often as possible."

Royle hoped he could delay surgery until the end of the season, but the pain has increased and the problem - common among former players - now needs to be dealt with.

09/10/2000

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Gregory wants recognition for Villa

JOHN GREGORY neatly encapsulated the hiding-to-nothing nature of Aston Villa's unfinished Uefa Cup business again. Stromsgodset in Norway tonight. "We'll make the headlines if we slip up," the Villa manager said after arriving with a 3-2 lead. "If we win, it'll be a little report tucked away on page 27."

Gregory's comments also reflected a feeling that is shared by his chairman, Doug Ellis, that Villa have not received adequate recognition for their achievement in establishing a

five-point lead in the Premiership. Much of the media, and at least one rival manager, appear to regard their tenure at the top as temporary. An unconvincing performance in the first leg, that Villa won in stoppage time after trailing 2-0, may account for some of the reservations. Gregory, who restores Stan Collymore to the starting line-up but is without the injured Gareth Barry, is honest enough to con-

cede that their largely part-time hosts were unlucky to lose. "We were very fortunate to come out of the match at Villa Park winning," he said. "Beforehand I had visions of it being 0-0 after an hour, and I felt we might wear them down with superior fitness in the last 30 minutes. As it was, they held up remarkably well."

Gregory's natural openness, which has led him to encourage fans to attend what were once strictly private training sessions, extends to every aspect of his management style except

his attitude to defending. Villa have shut out the opposition in six of their eight fixtures and start the second leg, in the port of Drammen, 30 miles from Oslo, knowing that another clean sheet would guarantee progress to the second round. "I can't ever remember sending a side out to intentionally draw 0-0. I think we'd find that very difficult," Gregory said. "But we've got a mentality about us that we mustn't concede a goal. Although it won't be safety-first football, we'll have that in the back of our minds."

Collymore starts a match for only the second time this season, replacing the ineligible Paul Merson. He launched his comeback as a late substitute in Saturday's 1-0 win over Derby County and Gregory said: "The fact Stan has only played four minutes is not a problem. He has shown the right attitude in training and has worked very hard to regain his fitness."

Simon Grayson deputises for Barry, having come on for the young defender on Saturday's. The 17-year-old is likely to be fit for the weekend visit to Coventry City, however. The cramped confines of the Marienlyst Stadium, whose 6,000 capacity will be bolstered by temporary stands, hold no fears for Gregory, who was in charge of Wycombe until February. While expecting conditions to be reminiscent of Hednesford - where Villa play a testimonial match next Monday - he chuckled in agreement when it was suggested that Collymore needed to be tricked into believing he was facing Liverpool.

That may be true of Villa in general. In the 18 League fixtures since Gregory succeeded Brian Little, only Barnsley and Bolton have beaten them. "And they were both relegated," Gregory said. "We're probably at our weakest when playing teams we're expected to beat."

Stromsgodset will advance if they win 1-0 or 2-1, and expect both their former Premiership players, Jostein Flo and Erlend Johnsen, to be fit after missing the game in Birmingham. Flo's serial ability was critical when Norway twice embarrassed

Blackburn must beware danger from Dhorasoo

THE TASK facing Blackburn Rovers at the Stade Gerland in Lyons tonight is an unenviable one: Roy Hodgson's side have to beat a Lyons team who lie second in the French league and are unbeaten this season if they are to make progress in the Uefa Cup - a tournament in which Hodgson went all the way to the final with his previous club, Internazionale.

After a poor start in the League, Hodgson might have been forgiven for looking to Europe as a source of inspiration for some of his players, but in the first leg at Ewood Park they were made to pay for some profligate finishing by an efficient Lyons outfit and a wondrous strike at the death by the Polish international defender Jack Bak - something Glenn Hoddle will have taken note of for later use in England's Euro 2000 qualifying campaign.

But, had it not been for an equally wondrous save by Tim Flowers, Blackburn might have been trailing long before that. The man Flowers denied was the Lyons playmaker Vikash Dhorasoo, a talented 25-year-old who, since moving from Le Havre in the summer and making an impressive start with his new club, is being compared favourably with the incumbent No 10 in the French national side, Zinedine Zidane.

Dhorasoo, a Hindu who was born near Le Havre to parents who emigrated from Mauritius two years earlier, was voted the French player of the year by the sports paper L'Equipe in his last season with his home-town team, an achievement which attracted the attention not only of Lyons but several other clubs,

Lyons' Uefa Cup campaign is being inspired by 'the next Zidane'. By Adam Szreter

including one or two from the Premiership. "I don't want to say who, because I'm quite happy at Lyons," he said shortly after Friday evening's drab goalless draw at Nancy, which Lyons seemed to treat more as a training exercise for tonight's match than anything else.

If Dhorasoo had chosen to come to England, it certainly would have been popular with the people of Mauritius, who are fed a regular diet of English football through satellite tele-

vision. Dhorasoo's brothers and sisters were all born there, and he himself is a regular visitor on family holidays.

"They love English football, particularly Manchester United and Liverpool," Dhorasoo said. "They know about me and, although they like the French too, I think they would like me to play for an English club most of all."

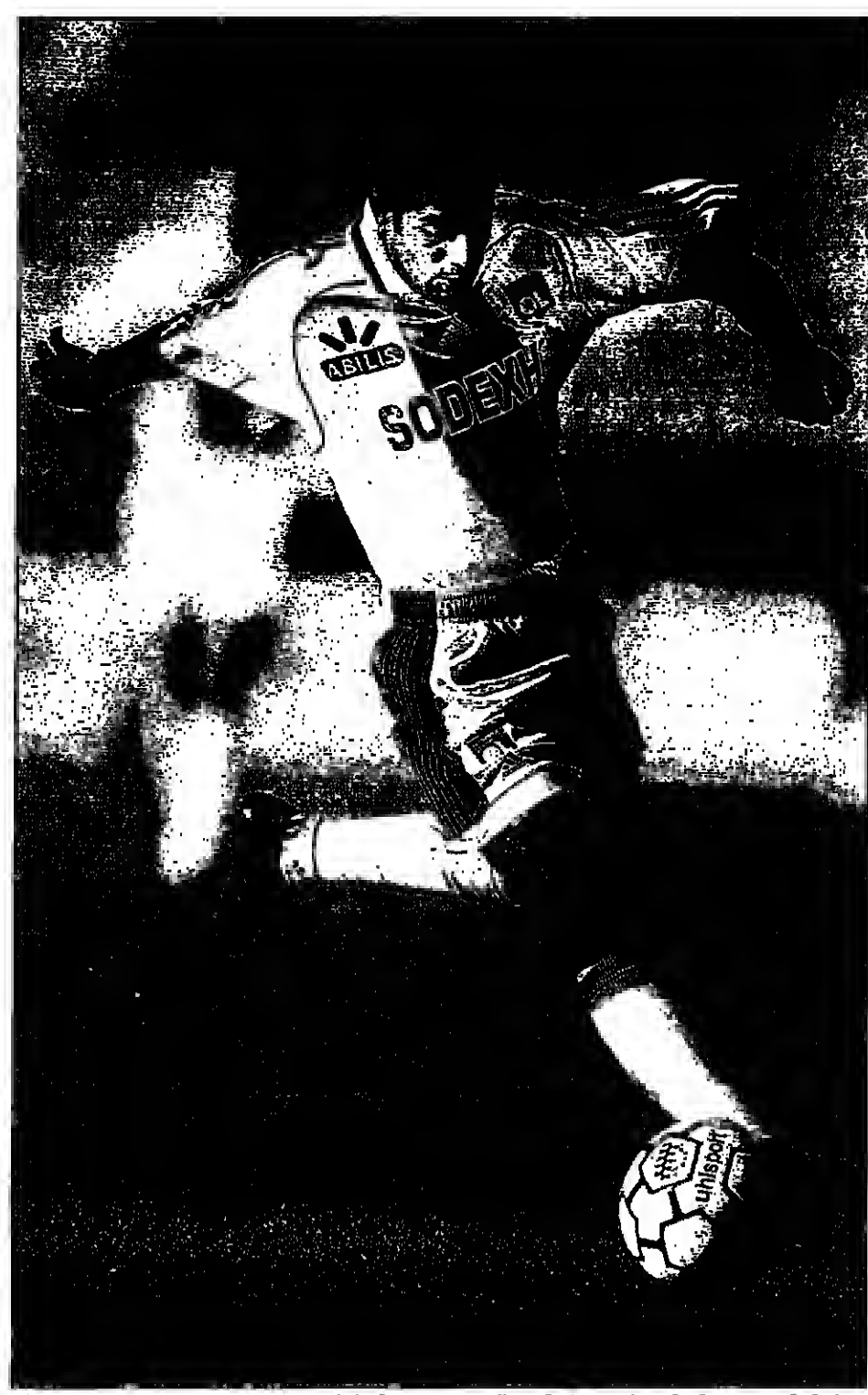
"I also love English football but I don't know whether I'll ever play there. I like their style of play, the fighting spirit, the commitment and the culture of the public as well.

They are behind their team for 90 minutes, encouraging them."

Like the majority of the island's population, Dhorasoo's grandparents moved from India to Mauritius some time after the last Dodo saw the light of day there, and Dhorasoo's origins make him an exception to one of the more curious rules of football, both in France and England. "I am one of the only players of Indian origin to have played at this level," he said, "and certainly the only Mauritian." But for those seeking a satisfactory explanation for this cultural phenomenon Dhorasoo, a highly intelligent former business studies undergraduate, had to admit: "I can't explain it."

Dhorasoo knows he has a good chance of being called up to the French squad for the first time later this week as the world champions prepare for European Championship qualifiers against Russia and Andorra next month. But, for the moment, he remains focused on tonight's match and on bringing a long-overdue taste of footballing success to the gastronomic capital of France.

Looking back on the first leg against Blackburn, he said: "It was the first time I'd played in Europe, and the first time I'd played against an English team, so for me it was quite an occasion. It was hard but it was also a great win for us and we've taken a big step to-



Vikash Dhorasoo: 'I love English football. I like their style of play, the fighting spirit, the commitment, and the culture of the public'

wards getting through. We knew all about Sutton, and Davies impressed us too, but we managed that first leg quite well.

"With the long ball out of defence that they use they will be a danger to us at home, but I think the biggest fear we have for the second leg is of ourselves. If we play well enough we should get through, even though it won't be easy; but if we're not on top of our game it will be difficult."

Hasselbaink threatens to leave Leeds

THE LEEDS United striker Jimmy Floyd Hasselbaink yesterday threatened to quit the club if the manager, George Graham, leaves to take over at Tottenham.

The Dutchman's shock declaration came on the eve of tonight's Uefa Cup first round second leg against Maritimo in Madeira - which is strongly rumoured to be Graham's last game in charge of the Elland Road club. It is believed that a compensation package of around £2.5m is being negotiated by the Leeds chairman, Peter Ridsdale, and Spurs' Alan Sugar to allow Graham to be installed at White Hart Lane by the end of the week.

Hasselbaink, whom Graham signed for £2m from the Portuguese side Boavista last year, said: "It will be a bad thing for me and for the team if George goes. He is very important to me, so I will be very sad if he leaves Leeds. If he does, then it will make me think about my future and what to do because of what he means to me."

Graham, refusing to be drawn on the link with Spurs, is determined to guide Leeds into the second round of the Uefa Cup. His side hold a 1-0 lead from the first leg, and he said: "It's a very important tie for Leeds. If we can put on a good performance and get the right result, then I will be delighted. Even if it's a gritty performance, I will still be pleased."

Maritimo's Canadian international Alex Bunbury, the former West Ham forward, could be the Portuguese club's danger man. "We respect Leeds," he said, "but after holding them to a one-goal margin on their own pitch we are confident that we can pull off a really good result in the second leg."

By IAN PARKES

Robbie Fowler is expected to continue his rehabilitation after his knee injury against Kosice at Anfield. Liverpool hold a 3-0 advantage from the first leg in Slovakia and seem assured of a place in the next round, but Fowler has his own targets to aim for. "I know that, when I play a few more games and get the match sharpness I need, I will be a better player," he said.

Liverpool are likely to rest Steve McManaman, who is still struggling with his Achilles injury, while Paul Ince and Steve Harkness may be left out as well. There is also a chance that David James could get a recall in goal in place of Brad Friedel, after the American international's mistakes in the 2-0 defeat at Manchester United.

Blackburn Rovers' quest to overturn a 1-0 deficit from the home leg tonight at Lyons has hardly been helped by an injury crisis in attack. Chris Sutton (ankle) and Kevin Davies (illness) are definitely out. Kevin Gallacher and Martin Dahlin, who both have calf injuries, are very doubtful and face late fitness tests.

Damien Duff, normally a winger, is likely to play as a central striker in the Stade Gerland, while the 18-year-old David Dunn could make his full debut for Rovers after figuring for 11 minutes as a substitute at Everton on Saturday.

At Parkhead, also in the Uefa Cup, Celtic defend a 2-1 advantage from the first leg against Portugal's Vitoria Guimaraes. The Scottish champions' captain, Tom Boyd, should recover from a hamstring problem, but Jackie McNamara and Morten Wieghorst are both long-term injury absentees.



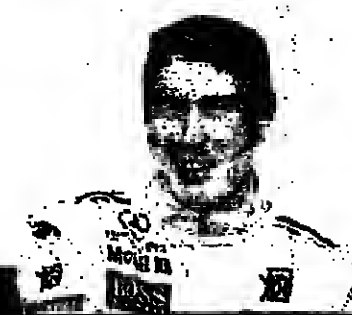
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SPORT

VILLA'S NORWEGIAN MISSION P29 • HAKKINEN ON A HIGH P23



FA charge for angry Di Canio

PAOLO DI CANIO was yesterday charged with misconduct by the Football Association for pushing the referee Paul Alcock - with the Sports Minister, Tony Banks, calling for disciplinary officials to "chuck the book at him".

As expected, the FA announced the charge after being given Alcock's report into the incident, in which Di Canio shoved the official to the ground after being shown the red card during Sheffield Wednesday's Premiership match against Arsenal on Saturday.

Di Canio has 14 days to respond and request a personal hearing but, depending on the speed of his response, the FA could bring forward a disciplinary hearing.

Whatever Di Canio's response is, the Professional Footballers' Association chief executive, Gordon Taylor, expects him to sever his links with Wednesday.

Banks said: "This was an incident too far. All of us involved in football, whether as supporters or players, have shouted at the referee as passions run high. But you cannot assault the referee. There has to

BY MARTYN ZIEGLER

be a limit - the referee stands between us and chaos, and this was totally unacceptable.

"This is a matter for the FA, and I think they should chuck the book at him," Banks added. "This is so serious that an example has to be made of the player."

Taylor said: "I think there is a problem with him at the club and I think we might see a parting of the ways. He had a particularly bad week, probably a problem with his manager, doubts about whether he would play, and I suppose it capped a dreadful week for him."

The FA's statement read: "The player has 14 days to respond and request a personal hearing. Depending on the player's response, the FA will seek to put the case before a disciplinary commission at the earliest opportunity. In doing so, we will also welcome the actions of Sheffield Wednesday in suspending the player pending that hearing."

Di Canio, who has flown home to Italy with his club's permission, accused Alcock of over-reacting. He said: "I gave

him a shove, but it was hardly done with much force. He took three or four sideways steps before falling over in rather a strange way - like someone diving to win a penalty.

"In fact, it was so odd he would probably have been given a yellow card if he had been a player. To me, it looked like someone who was acting."

The referees' spokesman, David Elleray, said: "It is extraordinary that Di Canio is making these claims, because I cannot imagine any referee doing anything like that."

"It is quite clear that the one thing Paul was trying not to do was fall down because he wanted to preserve his dignity. He has no reason to go down because it is a very undignified thing to happen."

Elleray has urged the FA to take the strongest possible sanctions against the player, if only for the sake of the thousands of referees who officiate on park pitches every weekend. "I think people regret the way that standards of behaviour have fallen, and one accepts the occasional verbal outbursts - but striking a referee crosses the line, and we do not want it

to become part of a trend," he said. "I have not heard one person offer one word of defence for Di Canio's action. Everyone agrees that what has happened is wrong and we await the FA's verdict with interest. I'm sure they will take the appropriate action."

The Arsenal defender Martin Keown is to appeal against the red card he received in the same incident - and he has received support from Taylor.

"I feel quite sorry for Keown, who was looking to prevent Di Canio from approaching Patrick Vieira," the FFA chief executive said. "As a result of acting as a peacemaker, he's also been sent off."

Keown said: "Despite more than a little provocation I managed to control my temper and I was genuinely shocked to be shown a red card. I sincerely hope that when the match officials have had time to reflect on the incident they will take a different perspective and exonerate me from blame."

David Pleat on the Di Canio wanderer; Where referees are used to assaults, page 28



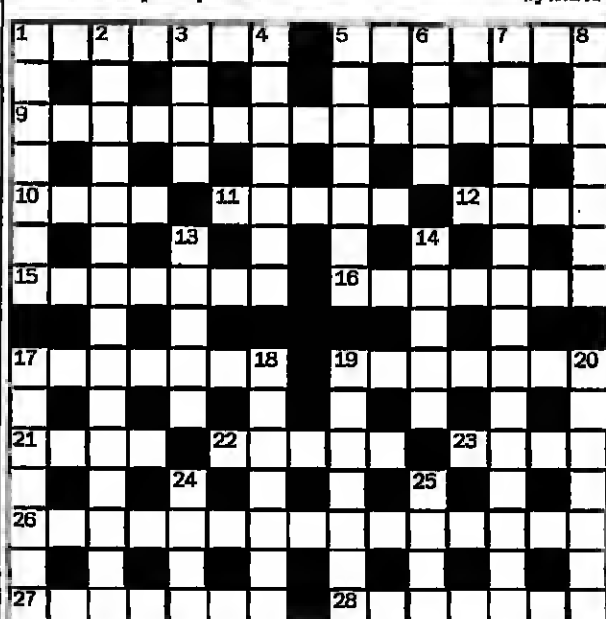
Pittsburgh's Kordell Stewart, tries to get his pass away as Seattle's Philip Daniels (right) arrives to make the tackle. Pittsburgh won 13-10 in front of their home fans on Monday night. Old guard hold firm, page 27/AP

THE INDEPENDENT CROSSWORD

No. 3728, Tuesday 29 September

By Aelred

Monday's Solution



FEATHERBED
RAMBLING
DOLLAR
FALLON
TUNING
BRINGING
ENDING
PAIN
MASKED

Harford resigns as QPR manager

BY ALAN NIXON

RAY HARFORD yesterday resigned as manager of troubled Queen's Park Rangers and brought his unhappy reign to an end within a year.

Harford left after thinking over his future at the weekend following a humbling 4-1 defeat at Oxford United.

Coach at Blackburn Rovers when they won the title, Harford has had considerable problems at Rangers where he feels that he has been denied transfer funds. The signing of Vinnie Jones was made over his head and lately the fans have turned against the manager and his struggling team. A compensation figure has yet to be agreed, but rather than wait to haggle Harford has decided to leave.

Harford's chance of being given an escape route to Newcastle United disappeared when Kenny Dalglish was sacked a month ago.

Harford, who left West Bromwich Albion in the middle of last season to join the QPR, has achieved only one victory with the Loftus Road side in nine games this season. The club, second from bottom in the First Division, have appointed Iain Dowie, the Northern Ireland international striker, as caretaker manager. A statement from the club said: "Ray felt at this difficult time it was in the club's best interests he should step down."

ACROSS

- 1 Make photo change? (7)
- 5 Acid about saint being self-denying (7)
- 9 Metaphors of people referred to in oratory? (7,8)
- 10 A B C D F or G? (4)
- 11 Mark spoke of having to buy a cat (5)
- 12 Order graduate to send back bullets (4)
- 15 Wrongly I bet Deb this would go out (3,4)
- 16 In French 144 hold one's attention (7)
- 17 Revolutionary source of cigar? (7)
- 19 Reportedly making water-tight what is above you? (7)
- 21 A method of getting off (4)

- 22 Order a railway to carry gunners (5)
- 23 Being elliptical is nothing to Valerie (4)
- 26 Psychiatrist made GI violent from being a shy type (9,6)
- 27 Subdue to conceal material of case? (7)
- 28 Drive in lad to be an operator (7)

DOWN

- 1 Remove barriers perhaps in preparation to repel attack (7)
- 2 Overgreat lamb we cooked - it's eaten at table (9,6)
- 3 A hit normal, ordinary? Not him! (4)
- 4 Maybe the time for succeeding in alley (7)

- 5 A fellow's story is pleasant (7)
- 6 If covers head, English head? (4)
- 7 Convivial term he applied to old fashioned electronic device (10,5)
- 8 In these you'd be colluding about shouts of derision (7)
- 13 Fanatic going up to the Rock (5)
- 14 Once more Eastern ruler's at home (5)
- 17 High quality girl taken in by Commander-in-Chief (7)
- 18 Driving force could be found in brute (7)
- 19 Seaweed in Med. Island was a source of fuel (4,3)
- 20 Ghaz, for example, put over Mediterranean type (7)
- 24 A part of the Bible one's against (4)
- 25 Seaside feature that is suppressed by priest (4)

Published by Independent Newspapers (UK) Limited, 1 Canada Square, Canary Wharf, London E14 5DL, and printed at Mirror Colour Print, St Albans Road, Watford. Back issues available from Historic Newspapers, 01905 640270.

Tuesday 29 September 1998 Registered as a newspaper with the Post Office

HOPE THIS REF'S NOT A PUSHOVER

Liverpool v FC Kosice. UEFA Cup. Live tonight only on Channel 5 from 7.30pm.

5

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TUESDAY REVIEW

COMMENT • FEATURES • ARTS • LISTINGS • TELEVISION

Hollywood stole my life

The *Truman Show*, the latest Hollywood vehicle for the manic comedian Jim Carrey, hits British cinema screens next week. A thoughtful contemplation of the hegemony of television over all of our lives, it is, at its simplest, a story about the exploitation of a hapless Everyman by a ruthless media corporation. It makes for good fiction. But behind this film another, real-life tale of exploitation may be lurking.

Meet Mark Dunn, a soft-spoken researcher in the rare books department of the New York Public Library, who believes that the movie, one of this summer's big blockbusters in the United States, takes its central idea from a play that he wrote back in 1992. So certain is Mr Dunn that credit for the original idea should be his, that he is suing Paramount Pictures and the creators of the film for \$200m.

It is hardly the first time that a studio has been hit with such a lawsuit. Just ask the makers of *The Full Monty* about their legal battle with two New Zealand playwrights who believe that their 1987 play *Ladies Night* was plagiarised for the unexpected British hit. Scores of such complaints have reached the courts only to founder. But few are as compelling, at first glance, as the one being pursued by the benighted Mr Dunn.

"It's not my contention that they just took the premiss," remarks Dunn, 41, who works in the library to make ends meet while he struggles to reach the big time as a playwright. "It's that they heavily borrowed from the entire play, including the plot, characters, theme, and a lot of scenes. It makes me feel like nobody's safe from being taken advantage of."

To be sure, *The Truman Show* is not your standard, vacuous Hollywood fare. Without giving too much away, we can reveal that it depicts the life of Truman, played by Carrey, who finds himself trapped unwittingly in the twilight world

BY DAVID USBORNE

of a sound set. As an orphan, Truman is cast as a character in a round-the-clock soap opera that is broadcast to hungry viewers across America. Truman's life is thus a television confection - his friends, even his wife, are actors and everyone he meets are extras - but he does not know it. Until he finds out.

The film drew huge applause from critics, who greeted not only Carrey's funny and deeply poignant performance, but also the wider issues it raises about our television-saturated society. At its strongest, the film explores our shared paranoia about the authenticity of our lives, and about our increasing taste for cheap voyeurism through the TV screen as well as our worship of the god that is electronic media.

The amusement is not shared by Dunn, however. Seven years ago, he wrote a play called *Frank's Life*. Just as with *The Truman Show*, the play's title doubled as the title of a television show in which the main protagonist unknowingly leads a life that is turned into a soap opera for network viewers. The play ran for three months in an off-Broadway theatre in 1992 and garnered some good reviews.

Indeed, in the lawsuit filed in a Manhattan court earlier this summer, Dunn and his lawyer highlight some 110 points of overlap between *The Truman Show* and *Frank's Life*. Other defendants in the suit include the screenwriter for the movie, Andrew Niccol, and its producer - one of Hollywood's most successful - Scott Rudin.

It is not just that both projects are about innocents who discover that their entire lives have been TV shows. Common to both is a shared best friend character with whom the protagonist of each drinks beers and shares his woes; a character who rebels and decides he can no longer carry the deception; a blond and bitchy wife; and a mean producer who executes the whole project, played in the film by a cold-eyed Ed Harris.

It was back in 1995 that word of Paramount's treatment first reached Dunn. Lawyers, however, told him that he would have to wait until the film's release before taking any action. Early this spring, he and his wife first saw posters for *The Truman Show* in his local cinema in New York. "It was like someone punched me in the stomach," he says now. "That's when I knew it was going to be a difficult summer."

Finally the film came out and Dunn, bracing himself for the anger he knew he would feel, joined the long queues and bought his ticket. With his wife by his side in the darkened cinema, he scribbled all the similarities with his own work in a small notebook. His notes will form the basis of his court action. Representing Dunn is a lawyer, Carl Person, who already has experience of taking on the studios. He couldn't resist the case, saying it was "the best I have ever seen". Person acknowledges that such cases are hard to win. "There is no real protection for ideas at all. Copyright is difficult to enforce, so people who infringe it do it with impunity. And it's profitable to do so, because it's difficult to prove."

To triumph over the legal might of the studios, a plaintiff, under standards laid down in the late Seventies, must demonstrate "striking similarities between the works", including "arc of character" and the location of the story. Person is adamant, however, that the mirroring between



Struggling writer Mark Dunn got a shock when he saw a preview of the new Jim Carrey movie, due here next week.

The Truman Show was uncomfortably close to a script he'd failed to sell to Paramount Studios. So far, so Hollywood. Except in this case, he has an off-Broadway play and a cast of witnesses to prove it. And with \$200m at stake, he's not about to change his story

the film and Dunn's play is so remarkable that winning this case should be a cakewalk.

One who supports Dunn's complaint is a New York theatre critic, Susan Shapiro, who gave a rave review to *Frank's Life* when it opened in 1992. On seeing the film this summer, she assumed that Dunn had successfully sold his idea to Paramount and immediately telephoned him to offer her congratulations. "This is such an idiosyncratic, bizarre story," she said. "I saw the trailer for the movie and turned to my husband and said, 'I saw this as a play'."

Shapiro offered her own thoughts on what happened to Dunn to the *Los Angeles Times* recently, and she points that Tristar Pictures was obliged to pay out a seven-figure sum to the family of a lawyer, Geoffrey Bowers, after acknowledging that his story as a man dying from AIDS in a leading law firm formed the basis of the Tom Hanks film, *Philadelphia*. The producer of that film was none other than Rudin.

In turns out, in fact, that Rudin was invited by Dunn to see his play when it was playing in New York. Whether he or any of his associates in fact went along, nobody can be sure, however. But Person insists that Rudin had ample opportunity to become aware of *Frank's Life* and its unusual theme, either by seeing it himself, hearing of it from others or reading any of the

positive reviews. As a result of those reviews, moreover, Dunn received calls from Hollywood producers who were interested in turning it into a film. Among the studios to which he sent the play for consideration was Paramount itself, in the summer of 1992. It was turned down by Paramount and also by Twentieth Century Fox.

The case, if and when it comes to court, will turn on matters of timing. While nobody associated with the film has commented on the case directly, it appears that the defence will rest on the claim that the screenwriter, Niccol, first submitted his original treatment for the film, at that time called *The Malcolm Show*, to his then agent in May 1991.

A synopsis of that treatment, obtained by *Daily Variety*, said: "Malcolm is the star of a 24-hour continuous soap opera in the future but doesn't know it. He has been filmed by hidden cameras every second of his life - *The Malcolm Show* has been running since his birth. The show has 16 producers, all his family and friends are actors - all the strangers that he sees in the street are extras."

Rudin had reportedly threatened meanwhile to countersue if Dunn persisted with his own complaint. Paranoia about the risk of plagiarism suits has haunted the Hollywood studios. Producers have taken to protecting themselves by open-

ing submissions only from people they either know already or have been told about by agents. By simply not opening the envelopes of unsolicited story ideas, they hope to shield themselves from future assaults from people such as Dunn. The studios fear that such suits have become a cottage industry the cost of which could quickly run into millions of dollars. "I don't think there are as many ideas stolen as there are people suing," notes Richard Arlook, a literary agent in Beverly Hills.

Recent complaints that have made the headlines include the unsuccessful bid by the author Barbara Chase-Riboud to block the release of Steven Spielberg's *Amistad* last year, contending that it was largely lifted from a book she had written in 1989. Another writer, Stephen Kessler, asserted, also in vain, that parts of *Twister*, written by Michael Crichton, had come from one of his screenplays.

The \$200m cited in this case is no random sum. It is the least that *The Truman Show* is expected to harvest once it has circled the world. Dunn says that the story was 100 per cent his, and that 100 per cent of the revenues are due to him. If defeated in court, Paramount will have an embarrassing bust on its hands. Mark Dunn, however, will finally have made it - if not in quite the way he would have wanted.

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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E-mail correspondents are asked to give a postal address. Letters may be edited for length and clarity

German lesson

Sir: The German election results finally expose the lie that under proportional representation the electorate cannot rid itself of a government it doesn't like, but perhaps more importantly they expose what is perhaps the true reason for Labour's dithering on electoral reform - would it be too paranoid to say they are afraid of the Greens?

By pulling their true electoral weight over the years, the German Greens have forced the federal government to act on the environment. Far from hurting the German economy, as was originally feared, legislation on clean air (for example) has actually stimulated new economic growth, and German anti-pollution equipment is now exported all over the world.

In Britain, the birthplace of environmental politics, the Greens regularly receive 2 to 5 per cent of the vote but no seats, allowing successive governments to backslide on the environment.

Under the current system, we saw a weak Tory government held to ransom by the Ulster Unionists, which almost dished the peace process. Under PR we could see a British government forced to improve the environment in order to stay in power. I know which I would prefer.

CHARLES HARRIS
London NW3

Sir: What short memories the trade union leaders and Labour MPs who are against changing the electoral system have.

It is only a few years ago that Margaret Thatcher used huge Parliamentary majorities secured with 40 per cent of the vote to neuter the unions and bring in legislation like the poll tax. Presumably those union leaders and MPs do not mind if Mr Hagne or his successors use the first-past-the-post system to do something similar in the future.

Before opposing a change to the voting system, apparently on the basis that the status quo has delivered Labour a huge majority, again with a minority of the vote, these electoral flat-earthers ought to consider that the Tories in 2001 or 2002 are certain to be more right-wing, more xenophobic, more English nationalist than even the Thatcher administrations. All they need is 40 per cent of those that choose to vote to revisit the 1980s nightmare on us all.

Mr Blair has the chance to stop it happening. He should take it, so that we can all benefit from a parliament made up to reflect the way we all vote, rather than one determined by the way we don't.

JAMES GIBSON-WATT
Hay-on-Wye, Powys

Moorland scars

Sir: Your environment correspondent's report about Duncan Davidson's plans to build a network of tracks in the Cheviots ("Moorland scarred by tracks for shooting", 28 September) illustrates an important anomaly. Why is it that farm and forestry tracks do not need full planning permission, unlike those used in connection with grouse shooting?

Heather moorland is a semi-natural environment, though vitally important in terms of biodiversity. The Government's own conservation agencies accept that properly managed grouse shooting is one of the best ways of maintaining and paying for heather moorland. By contrast, over-intensive sheep grazing and inappropriate conifer plantations ruin moorland. Yet landowners have traditionally received subsidies to cover moors in sheep and conifers, whereas they are taxed on shooting. The final irony is that Mr Davidson is reportedly reducing the numbers of sheep in order to regenerate heather.

The officials of Northumberland National Park - who are not exactly popular with local people - should be lobbying the Government to put grouse moor management on a level playing field with sheep rearing and

forestry, instead of wringing their hands and whinging about "difficult decisions".

ALASDAIR MITCHELL
Stocksfield, Northumberland

British rip-offs

Sir: Clare Garner reports (21 September) that "Treasury research" shows that we are being ripped off. It is sad that politicians always seem to be the last to know these things. I have known for years that Britain is the rip-off capital of the world, and have found my own solution. Unlike Clare Garner, I do not go to America to do my shopping. I just go 25 miles south of Dover and do my shopping in France, where I am less likely to be mugged or shot than in the States.

A leg of New Zealand lamb which is on sale in most French supermarkets costs, on average the same price per kilo as it costs per pound in the store where "good food costs less" (half the price). I have seen the self same litre of "plonk" which can be bought for about Fr8 (90p-90p) in France, on sale in England for £8 (yes, eight pounds). The bottle of Chablis Grand Cru or Mersault which can be bought in France for around Fr60 per bottle appears on the shelves here at anything from £20 per bottle upwards. The only item that is as expensive, or more so, is beef, but it does taste like beef rather than a stringy dishcloth.

The price of wide-screen televisions in France start at around Fr3,900 (£390, or so) yet the same set by the same manufacturer costs well over £600 here. Computers advertised here for £999 plus VAT can be bought in a French hypermarket along with your groceries for under £500 including VAT.

We weekly accept whatever is thrown at us. If the price of lettuce (a Sweet Romaine in France is Fr3; here it is 99p) went up to £5, there are people who would shrug their shoulders and pay rather

than leave the lettuce to rot on the shelves. Perhaps we should be adopting the tactics used by French truck drivers and farmers rather than allowing ourselves to be treated as milch cows.

A CROSSLEIGH
Ramsgate, Kent

Price of the euro

Sir: Once again, your letters column has been invaded (26 September) by those seeking to spread misinformation about monetary union.

Bill Rammell MP's assertion that our being an "out" was partly to blame for the European Central Bank's decision to ban national symbols on euro notes is at odds with the ECB's own statutes, which forbid a member state exerting political pressure on the members of the ECB board. He also displays touching naivety in his confidence that Mr Blair will be able to reverse this decision.

Sir: So! "The writing's on the wall for offensive advertising posters" (23 September). But what about television commercials? The great majority which feature men, women and children interacting depict women and female babies as superior beings - clever clogs forever deriding and prodding stupid husbands and beasty boys into behaving intelligently. What offence would result if the gender attitudes were reversed?

TIMOTHY CLEAL
Wormleighton, Warwickshire

Sir: Margaret Gooley asks (letter, 21 September) what readers might do if they found a sibling of whose existence they had hitherto been unaware, and with whom they therefore shared no common memories, only DNA.

I can see that there would be

John Parkin diverts attention from the true nature of EMU by talking about speculation. Of course EMU cannot be attacked by speculators. The point is that the economic forces that give rise to currency movements, and to speculative attacks, cannot be banished by a signature on a treaty. The economies of Europe behave differently from one another. Some other means will be found to take the strain: some mixture of inflation, unemployment and real wage cuts - unless large fiscal transfers are introduced to cushion the effects.

Of course even the US did not have a single currency for some decades after its creation. And the US has a federal government spending \$1.6 trillion a year; one of its functions being the fiscal transfers needed to make its monetary union work. The same would be needed in Europe.

AUSTIN SPREADBURY
Enfield, Middlesex

Circumcision rights

Sir: Mr Riaz Hasan invokes a parent's guarantee of religious freedom in justification of child circumcision (letters, 26 September). The Universal Declaration of Human Rights does not however provide the comfort that he claims.

Article 2 provides that everyone is entitled to all the rights and freedoms set forth in the declaration, without distinction of any kind, such as race, colour, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property, birth or other status.

Article 30 states that "Freedom to manifest one's religion or beliefs may be subject only to such limitations as are prescribed by law and are necessary to protect ... the fundamental rights and freedoms of others."

Thus a child's right to physical integrity must be applied without

prejudice to race, religion or gender. Religious freedom is no defence to the forced circumcision of infants.

JOHN D DALTON
Frislington, Cumbria

Sir: As one of your "intact" male readers I have read the letters concerning circumcision with my legs firmly crossed. I realise that it is a treasured part of the Jewish and Islamic faiths, and but where on earth did this practise come from?

The Bible says it was demanded by God as a sign of his pact with Abraham. God may move in a mysterious way but this really is extraordinary. Why give it to us then tell us to cut it off? In fact the tradition went back long before Abraham and was widely practised in the ancient world, except in Babylonia and Assyria.

Herodotus said it began with the Egyptians, though he did not know why, and archaeology proves that it was practised there five thousand years ago. In many places it seems to have been done at puberty for both boys and girls. In an age without painkillers or antibiotics this must have resulted in terrible infections and many fatalities, as it still does in parts of Africa.

Greeks and Romans never seem to have done it and thought it was crude and uncivilised. Under their influence the practice gradually disappeared. Some Jews even tried to reverse the effect, though how is not said! Satirists like Juvenal and Martial were particularly caustic, saying it was an example of Jewish barbarity and superstition. When Hadrian tried to ban it, however, he prompted the Jewish revolt led by Bar Kochba. Clearly new Christians, most of whom would have been adult gentiles, were having none of it and it had ended within their community even in biblical times.

None of this however explains where it came from, or why.

The Rev NEIL DAWSON
London SW9

did not co-operate he shut it down by force of arms, even going so far as to have Speaker Lenthall pulled out of his chair. Happily, Cromwell's republican dictatorship did not last long and the monarchy was restored.

DONALD FOREMAN
Secretary
The Constitutional Monarchy Association
London E4

Sir: Lyndon B Johnson came before Bill Clinton. Did presidential slogan writers have better first-hand knowledge then, or have I interpreted them incorrectly? Election paraphernalia, probably including cigars, was emblazoned with the thought-provoking, "All the way with LBJ!"

ANDREW MESSENGER
Enfield, Middlesex

IN BRIEF

difficulties of the "where do we go from here?" variety. As an amateur family historian, however, I have sometimes come across more distant relatives. I have found that it can be a "bouding" experience to pursue further family research together. It certainly provides plenty of material for discussion.

JULIA H PLUMPTRE
Rugby, Warwickshire

Sir: Oliver Cromwell was far from being "this country's greatest parliamentarian", as Mark Pappenheim believes (letter, 25 September). He packed Parliament with members of his family and, in modern parlance, cronies, and used it to rubber-stamp his draconian measures. When it



MILES KINGSTON

It is sheer folly to believe you can do everything yourself like some sort of mad one-woman show

up to? They seem barely capable of playing together under my beat? If we had mixed together after

the show, I would probably have pulled their legs about it! A sense of humour is not necessarily an advantage in a leader, but an ability to laugh a lot is essential. Later, when I became famed as a European, I found I could laugh at jokes in at least half a dozen languages. Later, I would get my staff to explain the jokes to me, but they never seemed very funny. (See my book: *The Joy of Laughter*.)

I HAVE always been lucky enough to be blessed with an ability to sail, and I have always believed in the art of hugging a host, and getting the right crew, and leaving the details up to them. It is folly to believe that you can do everything yourself, like a sort of mad one-woman show, and I do believe there is no shame in being a good delegator.

On one occasion, I was conducting the European Youth Orchestra in Brussels, and heard that, on that very evening, I had come first in the Round Tasmania Yacht Race in Australia! Well, if that is possible without good delegating, I would like to know how. (See my book: *The Joy of Winning*.)

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In my time, I have been lucky enough to meet American presidents, and popes, and other top-flight musicians, and amazingly enough, I have a large collection of photographs of myself with famous

Dad's guerrillas

Sir: My father, Alexander Norman, of Laindon in Essex, served for the four years of the First World War. When the Second World War broke out he was too old and unfit for active service, and so joined the Air Raid Precautions as well as keeping a full-time job.

He was always very derisive about our local Home Guard. However, one of my earliest memories is of his allotment, where he grew vegetables, and the rubbish heap that was covered in rusty metal and that we were forbidden to approach. He also had a collection of empty glass bottles in his garden shed.

After the war had ended, my mother was horrified to find two senior police officers on the doorstep demanding to see Father. He went off with them, returning an hour or so later. Mother demanded to know what they wanted, and Father replied: "Oh, they came to collect my box of ammunition."

"What box?"

"The one that's been buried under my allotment."

"Why didn't you tell me you had it?"

"If the invasion had come you could have truthfully said you knew nothing about it."

I don't know that he was connected with any plans for underground resistance ("The stay-at-home heroes", 26 September), but as the air raid wardens' leader owned a local garage, with access to petrol, I think I know what those old bottles were for.

There were obviously many small groups of old soldiers, with field experience who were prepared to "make it hot for Jerry" if he did succeed in getting to our shores.

MARY COLE
St Leonards, East Sussex

Only a smack

Sir: Philip Hodson ("Smack addicts", 25 September), uses the tactics one associates with politically correct thinking on the discipline of children. Rule 1: Never use the word "smack", when "hit" has far more resonance. Rule 2: Quote the most outrageous examples. No one would advocate the right of parents to administer a smack to a child necessarily supports the methods extolled by the Ezzeos. Their proposals probably come close to systematic abuse.

There are laws in this country already governing abuse and harm to children. The reaction of Paul Boateng, the health minister, to the European ruling is the only sensible one and, I am sure he will be supported by loving and supportive parents who wish to bring up their children in a civilised manner. To compare smacking to child abuse does no one any favours.

CHRIS RHODES
Faversham, Kent

Future history

Sir: On 24 September you carried two unrelated reports which underline the importance of archives both as contemporary evidence and as future historical source material. There may seem little obvious link between the wedding of Secret Service files and alleged attempts to subvert the archives of the Tate, but they are both components of a complex web of which we must ensure the future survival in a trustworthy form.

Why is it that we find in effect no discussion of archives in the Comprehensive Spending Review document issued by the Department of Culture, Media and Sport, which has a major responsibility in this area, but seems either unable or unwilling to accept that archives are distinct from the library and museum sectors and that different steps must be taken to ensure that the right records are preserved and are made available to the public?

FIONA JACKSON
Preston, Lancashire

Edward Heath speaks - and the old devil is in the details

TODAY I am proud to bring you exclusive extracts from the forthcoming memoirs of Sir Edward Heath, "Remember Me!", in which our greatest living statesman looks back over 50 years of politics and power.

In today's extract, Sir Edward reflects on the changes he has seen, and also, of course, on Margaret Thatcher's sheer bloody-mindedness.

BEFORE the start of the Second World War [writes Edward Heath], I was lucky enough to travel through Germany as a penniless student (see my earlier book, *The Joy of Hitch-Hiking*), and there I saw for myself what Hitler's Germany was like. Herr Hitler is much criticised these days, but I have to say, to be fair to him, that it was very

efficiently run, and that everyone pulled their weight behind him. Not everyone who has run a large modern state has had the same experience! But Herr Hitler had the right idea - be evolved a master plan and left the details to others.

I was especially impressed by Herr Hitler's efforts to unite Europe, though I cannot say that his methods were such that a democrat could approve of them. I am sure that if I had encountered Herr Hitler in person at that time, I would have said to him, "Non, Herr Hitler! Arrêtez-la!" Looking back, I realise now that he probably didn't speak French, and would not have understood what I was saying. But languages are not everything. Later, when I became famed as a European, I did not waste time on learning languages. I relied on my

staff to master the details. I never regretted it.

I WAS lucky enough as a boy to be endowed with a love of music and a gift for organising it. My first engagement as a leader was as conductor of the Broadstairs carol concert, and subsequently I have conducted some of the finest orchestras in Europe. I am proud to say I have never accepted a penny of payment in any case, nor indeed have I ever been offered any.

My motto in music is the same as in anything else: it is not worth doing unless you are the boss, and let the chaps get on with doing everything. Though, my goodness, I have often looked out at some great orchestra as I was waving my baton at the audience, and thought: "Heavens above! What ARE they

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ONE OF the talents which I believe I have been lucky enough to develop is the art of meeting people. I don't mean talking to strangers, a thing which I leave strictly to canvassers, but the art of communicating with other famous people.

In my time, I have been lucky enough to meet American presidents, and popes, and other top-flight musicians, and amazingly enough, I have a large collection of photographs of myself with famous

world figures, very often signed by the famous person or, if need be, solely by myself. If you are ever lucky enough to visit my family home in Salisbury, which I doubt, you will see this collection of photographs standing on the top of my favourite grand piano, where the closed lid makes a very good display case.

People sometimes ask me: "Why don't you open up the lid and play the piano for us?" And I say: "For goodness' sake! Because all the photographs will fall off! Not to mention the flowers!" (See my book: *The Joy of Piano Arranging*.)

And now, THAT woman...

I'm sorry, sir - I'm afraid that's all we have room for today. Some other time, perhaps...

29.9.1998

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Don't count on splitting the Paris-Bonn axis

WITH THE election of Gerhard Schröder as Chancellor of Germany, Europe's three biggest countries are now led by Social Democrat parties - a fact which Labour ministers have not been slow to point out. A new triangle of power, with Lionel Jospin in Paris, Schröder in Berlin and Blair in London, is ready to develop. Furthermore, as in the words of the British Foreign Secretary, Robin Cook, there is a chance of detaching Germany from such a close alliance with France and bringing it into a closer relationship with Britain.

Well, hold on a minute. The rejection of Chancellor Kohl after 16 years in power undoubtedly makes a difference. So does his replacement by a coalition led by the Social Democrat Party. Germany is now, like Britain and France, headed by a politician who has virtually no direct memory of the Second World War. Their leaders are also all politicians essentially intent on replacing the previous hegemony of conservatism with a modernised, liberal-left politics that absorbs all the lessons of Thatcherism but softens them with kinder words.

But there the similarity ends. Blair took over a Britain largely Thatcherised but tired of her stridency and wearied by the fractiousness of a government that had stayed in power too long. Jospin and now Schröder lead governments where unemployment is high, recession a recent memory and moves towards a full, free market economy barely started.

For them, and their countries, the aim is still a delicate balancing act between the demands to ease the pain of change with the requirement to promote it. The consensus politics of Europe, with their awkwardly balanced systems of presidential and parliamentary structures, and varying forms of proportional representation, may seem cumbersome to the British.

In this process, a change of government in Bonn - soon to be Berlin - is welcome. Whether one approved of Chancellor Kohl or not, he had clearly run out of steam in moving Germany along the path of change. The public were tired of him, as the French public were of his contemporary, Mitterrand, and the British of Mrs Thatcher. A great opportunist, Kohl had seemed to have outlived his two great achievements of reunification and European monetary union.

His successor will probably prove less influenced by the former and less determined on the latter. The pace of European integration will slow without Kohl.

So will the pressure for enlargement and foreign inter-



ventions through Nato or a European foreign policy. That may well make the new Germany a little less attractive to the France of President Chirac (though not necessarily as much to Prime Minister Jospin) and more attractive to London. But it would be quite wrong to think in terms of a new triangle, let alone of a new Anglo-Saxon axis. If Germany does prove more cautious on integration it will be largely because it is no longer willing to pay the cost of being Europe's paymaster. That may suit us on federalism but not on enlargement. A more introverted Germany will also still need to base itself on the Bonn-Paris alliance, even more so as the world

economic recession bites. If France and Germany, and most of the rest of Europe for that matter, share common problems of market change, still more do they share common economic prospects. The threats to the euro-launch will keep Paris and Bonn more than fully occupied, without worrying about relations with a Britain that is not a party to the whole enterprise.

The change in government is welcome for all sorts of reasons to Tony Blair. But it does not change much, still less remove, the urgent need for the British to throw themselves into the task of reshaping a Europe of monetary union.

How do we fund pensions, then?

YESTERDAY'S SPEECHES by Alistair Darling and Gordon Brown made some of the right noises about welfare and the economy. No one doubts the need for economic stability, or that our benefits system fails to deliver help to those most in need. But both men were shy about outlining the policies themselves. It is a great pity that Labour conferences now seem to be devoid of detailed debates, since the meat of actual policy arguments would make for a much more exciting, vigorous and successful conference. The issues abound for Labour to address. As the world teeters on the brink of recession, it would be better to hear Mr Brown's views on managing the economy, than yet another set of warnings issued to the trade unions and the Left. What does he think about world interest rates? Debt relief? Reform of the world economic superstructure?

The public is not so naive as to believe that there are no differences in the party over policy. The fringe is full of ideas and contesting beliefs, from pensions to transport policy. Why does John Prescott talk about proportional representation rather than the shape of his stalled integrated transport policy? It is obvious that commuters, or parents anxious that their children are choking on car exhaust fumes, are concerned about the latter rather than about the detail of Labour's co-operation with the Liberal Democrats.

Mr Darling also has a series of real policy decisions to make. Does the Labour Party approve of contributory pensions? If so, will there be top-up contributions demanded from those on lower incomes? Are rates of personal taxation inviolable in principle, or could they change as part of an overhaul of incentives?

All these questions add up to one dilemma: does Labour cherish "enterprise", or "public provision"? The conference Labour is not having would thrash out an answer. Alone under the party's new rules, ministers can, and should, make those debates a reality.

In homage to beer

A REAL-LIFE Homer Simpson has been discovered living in the wilds of Cleveland, near Bristol. Nick West has already added an extension to his home, in order to fit in his thousands-strong supply of empty beer cans. Now he is looking for a new house to fit them all into. What will people collect next? Hundreds of television sets to slump in while glumly staring at the football? Thousands of low-slung couches to lie on while snoring? Millions of packets of peanuts?

The only debates worth having occur outside party conferences

IN HER moment of triumph yesterday, Liz Davies - newly elected to the National Executive Committee of the Labour Party - permitted herself a few little digs. Victory for herself and her three fellow members of the Grass-roots Alliance had come, she said, despite the fact that "columnists on various papers heaped insults on myself and my fellow candidates. I am proud that party members saw through the falsehoods and distortions and voted solidly for a socialist alternative."

She has forgotten, I think, in all the excitement, that her slate was not actually promising a socialist alternative, but was rather explicitly capitalising on discontent with the Party's undoubted centralising tendencies. But let that one go, for I rather think that I am one of the columnists that Ms Davies is referring to. Certainly my article last month about *Labour Left Briefing*, a publication-cum-grouplet upon whose editorial board she sits, attracted a series of angry worded letters of rebuttal from a good half of that board (all of them undeclared, incidentally), and a letter threatening to issue proceedings for libel "without further notice" should I not retract and apologise unequivocally my observations, from most of the other half. As readers can see, I do not retract them; I stand by them. As yet, five weeks later, proceedings have not been issued.

Interestingly not one word that I wrote was specifically contradicted by those threatening action or complaining. Tim Pendry, as "co-ordinator of the Grass-roots Alliance", wrote that I was "unsustaining a campaign of personal vilification" by having the

temerity to point out that *Briefing* was, to say the least, ambivalent about its attitude to the morality of Irish Republican terrorism (indeed, another piece in October's edition of *Briefing* refers to the "armed struggle").

What was remarkable to me, however, about this reaction was its simplistic assumption that I was somehow involved in their tedious little war; that I had been put up to it by the Blairites in order to get members of the Labour Party to vote for this slate rather than that. Whereas the truth was, and is, that I do not care who gets elected to the NEC of the Labour Party. I don't even know how many posts there are on it. In May 1997, millions of voters did not vote for the composition of the NEC of the Labour Party. It is Tony Blair's principle virtue that he isn't a party man, and isn't a narrow tribalist.

But activists often are. So when they talk about the "need for debate", therefore, they are part right and part wrong. It is indeed imperative that the Government should find itself involved in challenging discussion and debate. If, however, the debate involves a shouting match with Liz Davies and her *Briefing* friends, it is the wrong debate. It won't get us anywhere.

Take the economy. According to Ken Livingstone yesterday: "People in the party want to increase tax, spend more on the welfare state and want interest rates to come down and don't want to get into bed with Paddy Ashdown." That was why they voted Grass-roots, apparently. Ken later advocated, "a bit more on taxes, a bit more spending." A "bit more"? So what did the Comprehensive Spending Review represent? A "bit more"



DAVID AARONOVITCH
In May 1997, millions of voters did not vote for the composition of the NEC of the Labour Party

that was not, unfortunately quite enough? Just how much is Ken's "bit more"? And how would he spend it? One minute the extra money would go on public sector pay and the next it would "soak up unemployment" caused by the coming recession.

The contradiction there is pretty glaring, but no-one picks him up on it. Like one of his own pets, Ken moves with insinuating ease from soft toned criticism to regretful disagreement. It is a shimmering, iridescent display. Follow the trail back to the creature's lair, however, and you find it empty. Where is the plan? We should cut interest rates, no matter what the impact on inflation, increase taxes sufficiently both to create many new jobs in the public sector and to remunerate those in them much better. Meanwhile we shouldn't make welfare reforms, shouldn't have tuition fees and so on. Liz, naturally, agrees. She

wants higher rates of income tax kicking in at "over 20,000 or so", thus raising the revenue we need to fund health and education ("promises we made to the electorate"). Promises on taxation are presumably regarded by Liz as deserving all the fidelity of a Tudor marriage.

Such wish lists do not make an economic strategy. So what might Liz or Ken's view of an alternative be? Once again *Briefing* rides to the rescue. In October's edition a comrade from Cambridgeshire writes a long article on the alternative. It concludes: "An ideological shift is required which reflects seriously on the methodology most appropriate to economic enquiry and which instead of justifying the enslavement of humanity seeks to emancipate it from the tyranny of inequality and poverty. The urgent task still remains to develop a radical economics that responds to the concerns of those who do not share New Labour's belief in the beneficence of the market to meet the real needs of real people in the real world."

And that, comrades, is where it stops. There is not one single word about what the urgent "shift" is. Frankly, even in-yer-face Trotskyism, or a lengthy Helen Brinton disquisition on the Third Way, is preferable to this shifty vacuity. The real debate, of course, is about whether countries, acting together, can construct a set of rules within which the global marketplace operates. But you will hardly bear a word of this at the Labour conference.

Similarly, it is depressing to listen to the self-interested guff that passes for conference debates about matters such as electoral reform. After the

public relations pieties of the LibDem conference, comes the even worse nonsense in Blackpool. This is the newly elected Grass-roots NEC member, Pete Williams writing on the Jenkins Commission, and approving the opposition of some big unions to reform: "The existing Conference policy is in favour of first-past-the-post and this position needs to be emphatically endorsed.... The unions believe that majority Labour governments (even Blairite ones) are better for their members than Tory or LibDem coalition governments. Public relations would consign majority Labour governments to the history books." This man is the leader, by the way, of the Campaign for Labour Party Democracy. So now we know what that's about - democracy for those in the Labour Party and sod-all for those outside it.

This instrumentalism is not just the preserve of the left. Those on the right of the party, such as Gerald Kaufman, also argue against change in a way that reminds you how - without pluralism - parties come to resemble golf clubs or Masonic orders. Essentially they become conspiracies against the rest of us. So what if, for nearly two decades, 42 per cent of voters gave us a government that 58 per cent didn't want? Now it's our turn. So what if, for years, Labour voters in large swathes of the South East had no representatives at all? Now the Tories elect no MPs in Scotland. Hoho, heehee.

So yes, of course, we can all agree that we need good political debate in this country. But too often the last place we'll find it is at party conferences. No, readers, we'll just have to do the show here, in the old barn.

QUOTE OF THE DAY

"Major is the very antithesis of Clinton. He doesn't need dangerous sex to turn him on."
Dr Andrew Stanway,
a seziologist

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

"Many men would take the death sentence without a whimper to escape the life sentence which fate carries in her other hand."
TE Lawrence,
British soldier and writer



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THE VOTERS have abandoned Kohl and the Union because they couldn't recognise their "people's" party in the socio-political laws and undertakings of this government. This applied especially to voters in the East. The openness of the voters towards reform is limited to those areas where only small, or no, sacrifices are necessary. The FDP misjudged this, and is now paying for its wrong assessment. Kohl and Waigel didn't stand a chance with their level-headed calculations against a

challenger who made vague promises of stability and affluence.
Frankfurter Allgemeine,
Germany

WHETHER SCHRÖDER wants it or not, it will now be up to him to influence the nature, evolution and comportment of this new nation state born of the fall of the Wall. It is an enormous responsibility which he inherits. A responsibility which is impossible for us to ignore, or hide in discourse suited to the

MONITOR

ALL THE NEWS OF THE WORLD
Reaction to Schröder's election
as the new German Chancellor



progress of social democracy in Europe.
Liberation, France

KOHL SPOKE of a dynamism, but wasn't able to convey it. He

spoke of an atmosphere of renewal, but went about spreading the opposite. The voters were more keen for a change than anyone might have expected. It was a courageous

election. If one adds up the votes cast for left-of-centre parties, the swing that becomes apparent is greater than that of the legendary Willy Brandt election.

The results signal a big change, not just a little shift. Change is upon us. But "red-green" majority will be small. So small, in fact, that it will require a lot of discipline - and forming a coalition will take some time.

Süddeutsche Zeitung,
Germany

THIS IS a new generation arriving in power, less sensitive to the weight of the horrors of the past. It is a different country, which will express itself as the images of the East-West division blur. Face to face with the Germans, now rid of any complex over their national interests, the French must retain equally unshakable convictions. Now that Germany is going to become the republic of Berlin, France must dare more and harder.
Le Figaro, France

PANDORA

SECURITY AT the Winter Gardens in Blackpool for this year's Labour conference will surely become legendary in years to come. Yesterday afternoon the journalist Greg Pallas, who broke the Cronygate story in *The Observer* a few months back, was stunned to be refused entry to the conference hall by none other than Adrian McMenamin, the Party's chief press officer. The reason? "Pallas was allocated a pass, but it was withdrawn because of serious allegations involving his behaviour," McMenamin told Pandora. Could he be more specific? "Allegations of harassment of a delegate," he implied that Pallas was found somewhere he shouldn't have been. Pandora is eager to hear Pallas's view of the reasons for his banishment.

SHORTLY BEFORE the above dramatic episode took place at the gates to New Labour nirvana, a charming grey-haired lady delegate had her knitting taken away by guards. It seems that her needles were longer than 3in, thus considered "offensive weapons". Looking understandably baffled, she was slightly reassured to hear that her jumper-in-progress would be returned at the end of the day.

IN BLACKPOOL, a small band of heroic individuals, keen to assert their idealism in the face of the Party's state-of-the-art control methods, even includes a few Cabinet ministers. One of them is Clare Short, who has made no secret of her lack of enthusiasm for wearing the blue Somerfield-sponsored lanyard around her neck; she has been sporting her own conference security badge on a chain. What does the supermarket group Somerfield, who paid £20,000 for their sponsorship privileges, think of this? "I haven't heard that this is the case. I'm going to go ask the Labour Press Office if this is true," Jill Rawlins, head of Somerfield's public relations, told Pandora in a rush. Elsewhere on the conference's Lanyard Battlefield, there is a red ribbon which has been produced by two British trade unions. It reads "GMB & KFAT Support UK Clothes, Textile and Footwear Workers" and is being worn by a number of delegates who, presumably, feel more strongly about saving British jobs than about Somerfield's "retail issues" and, of course, party sponsorship funds.



AS HURRICANE Georges approached New Orleans on Sunday, the mayor ordered a 6pm curfew, but a few intrepid bars in the French Quarter refused to close. In one of them, Daiquiri's Delite Shop, a New York lawyer named Jill Zibkov insisted on celebrating her 30th birthday by drinking Martians - daiquiris served in 2ft-tall green alien-shaped glasses. She told *The Washington Post* that she had previously been having trouble pronouncing "Georges" but no longer. "You have to have a couple of these Martians to say it properly," Pandora suspects that she'll remember her hangover long after the hurricane has been forgotten.

WHAT DO his fellow Rhodes scholars think of Bill Clinton's disastrous misbehaviour? At least one of them, the singer-actor-songwriter Kris Kristofferson, has gone on the record with a characteristically memorable view. "It's OK to step on your dick, Mr President," Kristofferson told *Entertainment Weekly*. "Just don't stand on it." Sadly, the Democratic party will have to run on it in November.

BOB LAXTON, Labour MP for Derby North, may not get invited back to the Trades Union Conference next year. At a trophy presentation evening for Derby University Rugby Club recently, Laxton was asked whether he had attended the TUC Conference. "No, it's one of the most boring events I can imagine," the MP replied. When he spoke to Pandora in Blackpool yesterday, Laxton ventured that "the social scene at Labour conferences is much more entertaining. But I can imagine that there may be people who find Labour conferences boring, too."

AUCTIONS OF celebrity clothes and other belongings have definitely hit a new low. A lavatory seat from one of the singer Courtney Love's former hotel rooms is now being auctioned on the Internet (www.ebay.com). The minimum bid required is \$150. Apparently the former grunge queen rejected the seat as "uncomfortable" and it was cherished by one of the staff at the New Mexico hotel in Santa Fe after being replaced by a cosier throne. Connoisseurs will presumably be pleased to hear that the object comes with a "certificate of authenticity".

Responsibility breeds content



TERENCE BLACKER

We live in a voyeuristic culture where public figures enact our fantasies and misery

lover had been working on the public account of his desertion before he got around to breaking the news to her. Even in the golden age of the celebrity confessional, this sense of priorities, putting the serialisation before the dumping it describes, represents something of a first.

Vulgar? Insensitive? Crass? Of course, but in 1998 it could be said that the need to express your private

pain to as many people as possible is an essential part of public life. Without descending to the popular tabloids, the casual reader of the weekend press was able to share details of Des Lynam's adultery, Margaret Cook's insights into the infidelity of her ex-husband, the Foreign Secretary, and more than he or she would normally want to know about the rift between Anne Robinson and her daughter over something she had written earlier.

For reasons which may have to do with pre-millennial panic or simply the dullness of most people's sex lives, we live in a voyeuristic, masturbatory culture where public figures eagerly enact our fantasies and desires, acts of betrayal and misery, rather than Sam the barman in the sitcom *Cheers* used to sleep with women on behalf of Norm, Cliff and the other sad sacks who hung out at his bar.

But there's more to the Carling story than an emotionally confused male making money out of the unhappiness he has caused. It happens that he was one of the first sportsmen to finesse his career into a broader context, using the new

seriousness with which sport is now taken to present himself not only as rugby captain, but as a captain of life, a leader.

In 1995, he wrote a book with Robert Heller entitled *Way to Win: Strategies for Success in Business and in Sport*, which modestly presenting sport as metaphor for management - the scrum as a business meeting and so on - analysed successes of pitch and field with many a solemn pronouncement. Sebastian Coe's recovery from a defeat by Steve Ovett to win an Olympic gold medal in another event showed that, well, if one thing doesn't work, maybe you should try another.

It would probably be deemed old-fashioned to introduce the phrase "officer material" at this point; it was certainly not among the management bullet-points in *Way to Win* - but it's surely true that, by claiming to be a leader, a person puts himself into a different category from, say, Des Lynam's lover.

To pursue your own financial concerns at the expense of others, to play the celebrity flashing game, to be more concerned above all else with your own image, reveals a

profound lack of officer material. Even if we don't know it, the rest of us care about such things.

Glenn Hoddle could be as eccentric as he liked, employing New Age gurus and leaving Michael Owen out of early games of the World Cup, but it was when he revealed confidential details of the way Paul Gascoigne reacted when he was dropped from the team that he lost public support. If Gascoigne had told the story, there would have been no problem; no problem, the boss, we expect less self-interest and more dignity.

Oddly, being of officer material is less to do with morality than with loyalty and dignity. It is not the misdemeanours of, say, a Cecil Parkinson or a Jonathan Aitken that shows them up so much as their squirming, indecorous subsequent behaviour. Conversely, the President of the United States, Bill Clinton, can be portrayed as a middle-aged proper and lech, yet somehow, by taking responsibility for his actions, by not blaming other people, by attempting to behave with a sort of honour, he seems, if not exactly a great general, then undeniably an officer.

What's the Big Idea? I don't know that we need one



ANNE MCELVOY

The centre left hankers for Thatcher's sureness, a set of responses to any problem that arises

THREE IS the most potent force in numerology. Hence the third eye for wisdom, the third breast for witchcraft, the Holy Trinity, and the Three Bears. Its mystical hold thrives in politics in the search for a Third Way, an approach to government and ideas which will be not too hot and not too cold: just right.

When *The Independent* staged its fringe debate at the Labour Party Conference last night, we chose not to pursue the task of defining the Third Way which, like definitions of sexual relations, means different things to different people. Instead, we asked whether modern governments need a Big Idea at all.

The Home Secretary, Jack Straw, argues that the Third Way is a new expression of the conviction that political theory matters: "People cannot live by bread alone. They need a framework of belief."

Ken Livingstone replies that the idea of an all-encompassing Third Way is nonsense: there would always be haves and have-nots, and it is the central responsibility of a government of the centre-left to address these inequalities, even if that means making enemies along the way.

Trevor Phillips says that it is the First and Second Way apologists who should be in the dock. "The great political tribes have gone. Polarisation is no longer appropriate: people don't want it. We need a new politics."

But what would this new politics look like? A random sampling of commentators, since the publication of Tony Blair's Fabian pamphlet on the subject, yields a number of conflicting images:

Still, the yearning for a Third Way is there: an almost desperate enthusiasm to find, lurking somewhere in the diffuse Blairite project, a firmness, a bottom line, a set of goal posts that won't shift.

The centre-left hankers for the same sureness of touch that Margaret Thatcher exhibited - a set of responses towards any problem or challenge which presents itself. This was part of the strength of the New Right. It had a firmly set compass, which would become known as Thatcherism. But I do not think that it will be possible to create Blairism, or that it would be desirable to do so.

A government that has made a virtue out of ditching one out-dated ideology should think carefully before adopting another set of fetters, even if they appear to be made of ideological Lycra.

Lady Thatcher would not have dreamt of couching her ideas as an alternative to two given ways. There was Her Way - and her way was readily and easily understandable to the brightest intellectual, or the simplest Tory drone - namely that the market was more efficient than the state.

Mr Blair is a different kind of political animal, with a talent for co-opting many strands of opinion to his cause, rather than battering them

into submission. He succeeds in this by avoiding strict categories and delineations. So Blairism is not a word that looks or sounds natural. Yet we speak quite easily of a Blairite approach to decisions.

Mr Straw builds his personal Third Way around a statement in *Tawney's Equality*: "If Labour is to do the job for which it was created, it must do three things. It must be returned to power. It must succeed when returned, in carrying out its programme. It must defeat such attempts... as may be made to frustrate it. It will not do so, except on the spearhead of a strong body of convictions."

That is eloquent. But it is far from obvious that it is true. Many parties have governed successfully without fulfilling Tawney's requirement: the Conservatives, from 1951-1964, spring to mind as a party which held office simply by being, rather like New Labour, a party people felt comfortable with. In the Continental post-war split between Christian and Social Democrat parties, the difference has been emphasis, not conviction, with both parties honourably wedded to corporatism, and the principles of social inclusion.

Courtesy of Anthony Giddens, we now have something like the updated version of Tawney's creed: "The new individualism is associated with the retreat of tradition and custom from our lives," Giddens writes. "We have to make our lives in a more active way than was true of previous generations. Third Way politics should preserve a core concern with social justice, while accepting that the range of questions which escape the left/right divide is greater than before."

Amen to all that. It sounds like a recipe for flexible, responsive, grown-up politics. But a "way" isn't: The neglect of the F-word in the



Margaret Thatcher didn't need any way, other than Her Way

Third Way should concern Blair-friendly liberals. There is not a lot of freedom about in this discussion. The desirability of "limiting the voluntary exclusion of the élites" sounds suspiciously and impractically dirigiste for a modern government, however well intended. Giddens writes: "Freedom, to social democrats, should mean autonomy of action, which in turn demands the involvement of the wider social community."

Call me old-fashioned, but autonomy of action cannot "demand" anything. Freedom may be, as libertarians believe, the highest good. Or it may be, in the definition of that other great political theorist, Janis Joplin, just another word for nothing left to lose. What it cannot be, in any readily understandable sense, is Professor Giddens' definition.

It is easy to understand why intellectuals enjoy the hunt for a Third Way - they are obviously perpetuating Keynes's view that, "Ideas are more important than commonly understood. Indeed, the world is ruled by little else." But prime

ministers do not spend time on pamphlets for fun. We already know who they are without seeing their name on a slim-bound volume.

So what is the Third Way really for? Sidney Blumenthal, Bill Clinton's chief courier, describes it as: "The practical experience of two leading politicians who win elections, operate in the real world, and understand the need, in a global economy, to find common solutions for common problems." This assumes that a set of problems will need the same response in Nebraska as in Newcastle, and it overstates the global importance of two men - Clinton and Blair - who are clever and inventive, but not the alpha and omega of political thought.

The bit about winning elections is a bit of a giveaway: would the Third Way outlined by Mr Blair have any future, if he should ever end up losing an election?

A truly big idea, like Gladstone's support for Irish Home Rule, must be worth risking defeat for I doubt whether the Third Way will enjoy such longevity.

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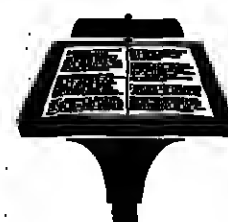
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The original settlers had a hard time

ON 27 MAY 1948, 500 people sailed from the Caribbean on the SS *Empire Windrush* in search for a better future. The ship arrived at Tilbury Docks, Essex, on 21 June 1948. It was the beginning of a change to the face of Britain.

In mid May 1948, adverts appeared in Trinidadian and Jamaican daily newspapers saying that a troopship was leaving for the United Kingdom and the passage was £28 and 10 shillings. It was an opportunity not to be missed. The SS *Empire Windrush* was on its way back to England, and 500 West Indians took up the offer.

Many of them did not have enough money to pay for rooms in hotels, or hostels. So it was a Jamaican, Baron Baker, who took the responsibility of arranging accommodation for the settlers. In 1944, he had joined the Royal Air Force. After the Second World War, most of the West Indian servicemen and women were demobbed and sent back to the Caribbean. Baron Baker remained in London. Major Keith (an official from the Colonial Office) told him of the *Windrush* settlers, as Baron was in a



ARTHUR TORRINGTON

The Secretary of the Windrush Foundation to the South Place Ethical Society, London

position to assist them when they landed. The Colonial Office had made no preparation for them, and it was Baron who suggested the use of Clapham Common Deep Shelter.

He told Major Keith: "The Air Raid Shelter had been used to house Italians and German prisoners of war, and even myself, when I came to London sometimes and could not find accommodation. So why not open it for the people on the *Windrush*?"

On the evening of 22 June 1948, the shelter housed 236 *Windrush* settlers. The decision to open it was important in the making of Britain as a multi-racial community. The shelter was less than a mile away, and most of the settlers found lodgings in the London Borough of Lambeth.

They were among the first group of Caribbean people to journey to the UK in search of a better future. Those who settled here during and after the end of slavery, had little or no influence in bringing about a change to the face of Britain. The nation remained mono-cultural until June 1948.

Black communities have existed mainly in Liverpool,

commemorate the 40th anniversary of the *Windrush* landing at Tilbury Docks. Professor Stuart Hall, of the Open University (a Jamaican), wrote: "The great wave of post-war migration from the Caribbean to the UK can be symbolically said to have begun with that fateful voyage. The history of the black Diaspora in Britain begins here."

They were leaving behind a homeland, not yet liberated from direct colonial rule, where the flag of Empire still flew, making them not full citizens of their own country, but subjects of a colonising nation. They were leaving behind the immense poverty of the countryside, and the declining estates of Britain's "sugar colonies" - once the jewel in the crown of, and destined to become the symbol of, a one-crop declining monoculture.

A land where, for all its extraordinary natural beauty, its vivacity, the vigour of popular life and culture, and its range and diversity of peoples and cultures, the opportunities for ambitious young people and the prospects for their children, especially if they came from the "lower orders", were nil.

What they were coming to was certainly not a "Mother Country", a land of milk and honey, where the streets were paved with gold. Those who had served in His Majesty's forces knew better than that. But, though the path for black men and women was uncertain, there were opportunities, like chances to be taken by those who were willing to gamble with the future, because they had so much at stake and so little to lose.

The *Windrush* settlers, and others who arrived later, had to struggle to survive in Britain. They endured prejudice, discrimination and harassment. In spite of these, many individuals have made progress economically, educationally, and otherwise - against the odds.

The UK has become a multi-cultural, multi-racial society, a situation that would have been unthinkable in June 1948. The *Windrush* celebration has been an occasion, not only for looking back 50 years, but also for looking forward to the 21st century and debating the future of the children and grandchildren of those who first laid a foundation for them in Britain.

JAVICO 1350

New Chancellor, old ways

"THIS IS a historic moment" a stalwart German Christian Democrat whispered to me as Helmut Kohl mounted the stage at the party headquarters in Bonn. As if it needed saying: Given the Christian Democrats' had defeat, we all guessed that, after 16 years in power - 16 years that changed the world - the giant of Oggersheim, the Chancellor of German unity and European unification, would be stepping down. When the cries of "Helmut! Helmut!" had finally abated, he gave a dignified short speech saying he would cease to be party leader as well as Chancellor.

For Germany's conservatives, this was like Mrs Thatcher's departure and last year's electoral disaster rolled into one. Like the British Conservatives, many Christian Democrats had felt the defeat coming. But the scale of it was still a shock - especially since the opinion polls had shown them catching up. As in Britain, people simply felt those in power had been there too long. They got bored with the same old faces. Boredom is an underrated factor in politics.

Kohl is the last great European statesman of the 20th century. As I watched him take his leave, I thought of a memorable conversation we had a few years ago. At one point he took my breath away. "Do you realise," he said, "that you are sitting opposite the direct successor to Adolf Hitler?" The point of this startling, even shocking, remark was that he - the first Chancellor of a united Germany since Hitler - was going to do everything quite differently. Whereas Hitler had tried to put a German roof over Europe, he was determined to put a European roof over Germany. This amazing sally encapsulated several ingredients of Kohl's greatness: his acute instinct for power, his historical vision and the bold simplicity of his strategic thinking. To that we must add tactical adroitness, party-political cunning and, not least, vast physical stamina.

Sunday's election was not only the end of this gargantuan phenomenon. It was also the end of the Bonn republic. Next year the government will move to Berlin. As Isherwood didn't write: "Goodbye to Bonn". Walking up the modest dual carriageway which is the spine of the dark Rhineland city, with cheerful crowds thronging the pavements, their attention soon turning back from the election to a rock band, beer, and the Formula One Championships just up the road, I felt a pang of regret. For the Bonn republic has been a good Germany, perhaps the best Germany we have ever had. And in this election it proved the maturity of its quiet, civil democracy. Not only did the German voters once again reject the extremes of left and right, despite 4 million unemployed. For the first time in the history of the Federal Republic, they also changed the government as the direct result of a general election. According to the winner, the Social Democrat Gerhard Schröder, this, rather than Kohl's departure, is the reason it may deserve the title "historic".

As I write, the triumphant Social Democrats and the environmentalist Greens announce that they will open the coalition talks that precede the formation of any German government. Assuming these are successful, the two parties together will have a comfortable majority. Let me make three guesses about this "Red-Green" coalition which, under Chancellor Schröder, and soon in magnificent new Berlin offices, would take Germany into the next century.

My first guess is an optimistic one. It has to do with so-called "foreigners" living in Germany. The only disturbing element in



TIMOTHY GARTON ASH

If Germany is to remain competitive and to create new jobs, it needs... Thatcherism with a human face

this election campaign was the popular hostility to these "foreigners" that it revealed, especially in east Germany. To be sure of tumultuous applause, a politician had only to say something about foreigners "not abusing our hospitality" or "respecting our laws and ways". On the streets of Berlin the posters of a far-right nationalist party proclaim simply "Criminal Foreigners Out!"

This is a problem that Germany has made for itself. Whereas Britain has a very restrictive immigration policy but then is quite liberal in granting British citizenship, Germany has been extremely liberal in taking people in but very restrictive in granting them German citizenship. The result is that a staggering 7 million people live as "foreigners" in Germany.

Now the Greens are admirable on this. They say: if a Turkish worker has lived here for years carrying out all the duties of a citizen, then he should have all the rights of a citizen as well. So my hope is that Germany may finally get a more normal, liberal citizenship law, as in Britain and America, with the main criteria being place of birth or long-term residence, rather than ethnicity. And high time too.

My second guess is more pessimistic - for Germany, though perhaps not for its competitors. Helmut Kohl probably did larger things for his country than Margaret Thatcher did for hers. (To be fair, larger things needed doing. The United Kingdom did not need to be reunited; rather the reverse.) But Kohl failed to do precisely those big things that Thatcher did: reducing the power of the unions, privatisation, deregulation, lowering direct taxation, cutting public spending and so forth. Now Gerhard Schröder fought a campaign of Blair-like discipline and razzmatazz. But to be a Blair in office, you need first to have had your Thatcher.

If Germany is to remain competitive and to create new jobs, it needs some of that medicine: Thatcherism with a human face, so to speak. I think Schröder himself understands this. But in his own party the old left is much stronger than it is in New Labour. Not he but Oskar Lafontaine is party leader, which is rather as though Blair were Prime Minister but John Prescott were Labour leader. Schröder won older voters from the Christian Democrats by promising to restore their pensions. He also says that he will defend the welfare state and deliver "social justice". Meanwhile, the Greens have an agenda very far removed from neo-liberal economics. They want punitive taxes on petrol, for example. This does not add up to the political basis for



All the world loves a winner: Germany's new Chancellor, Gerhard Schröder

EPA

reforms that German business leaders think are essential.

Finally, a guess about Europe and the implications for Britain. At the moment, it seems likely that Joschka Fischer, one of the most effective self-styled "realists" among the Greens, will become Germany's new foreign minister. This may be bad for concerted military action under Nato auspices in places such as Kosovo, since the Greens still have an influential pacifist wing. But it is unlikely to change the main lines of German policy in Europe.

Here, victory for the "German Blair" will give the British Government new hopes of building a Franco-German-British triangle instead of the exclusive Franco-German

axis. Schröder himself has made a nod in this direction. I think there is some basis for these hopes, less because all three governments are now of the left, than because the successor generation in German politics is simply cooler and more hard-nosed about Europe than were post-war Euro-enthusiasts such as Helmut Kohl.

Schröder himself was initially sceptical about European monetary union. Like so much else about him, it is hard to know whether this was a matter of personal conviction or simply trimming to public opinion. Now, of course, he'll go through with EMU and try to make it work - as should we. And his inaugural speech may still contain the usual visionary Euro-rhetoric. But

unlike Kohl, he won't in fact be pursuing a personal vision of ever closer political union. This, together with the themes of flexibility, subsidiarity and eastward enlargement of the EU, makes common ground for a Blairite Britain.

Yet Blair will have to work at it. There remains the hard fact that Germany and France are inside the inner core of monetary union, and we are not. There is a great battle ahead about Germany's outside contribution to the EU budget. And as I write these lines, German television reports that Schröder will definitely make one foreign trip even before becoming Chancellor: it is - you guessed? - to Paris. Like a chip off the old block, a leaf off the old Kohl.

RIGHT OF REPLY

LADY MARY FRETWELL

The Chairman of Passports for Pets replies to Suzanne Moore's article on their campaign

OUR QUARANTINE laws are old fashioned and cause needless inconvenience for pets and owners alike. When he was Minister for Agriculture, Jack Cunningham recognised these concerns, and set about a reappraisal of quarantine laws, by asking Professor Ian Kennedy, of the University of London, to undertake a study.

The report of Professor Kennedy and his colleagues has given a powerful boost to the campaign to reform this outdated and primitive system. Their report knocks on the head the arguments which have been used for decades to perpetuate the idea that incarcerating cats and dogs in cages for six months is the only way to protect the realm. It confirms that vaccination is a safe and modern alternative.

I think that Suzanne Moore ("A few of my pet hates") accepted this in her tongue-in-cheek article, but I would like to take her up on one point. She wrote: "it seems logical that, as the threat of rabies diminishes, the quarantine laws should be relaxed. Yet the language that all this is discussed in is emotive. Pets go through the 'ordeal' of quarantine, while their miserable owners have to endure separation. Our peculiar attitude to animals is once more on display."

But for pet owners facing the prospect of having their animals locked away, this is a very emotive issue indeed. We have thousands of members overseas who face the anguish of either putting down their pets, subjecting them to quarantine, or being unable to rejoin their families in the UK. As Suzanne Moore points out, press attention does indeed tend to be focused on the few well known personalities who have spoken on this question. But for every "superstar" there are a thousand ordinary mortals who want the right to travel with their pets.

Now that Professor Kennedy has told the Government that it can be done safely there will be a tide of pressure - and emotion - from those whose lives have been affected by the quarantine system. Could Suzanne Moore not spare a thought for their feelings on pets, even if they are different from her own?

A battle against philistinism

TUESDAY BOOK

LABOUR CAMP

BY STEPHEN BAYLEY, BATSFORD, £16.99

WITH HIS usual flair, Stephen Bayley greets the Labour conference with the accusation that New Labour is guilty of fascism and philistinism. Bayley is the "design guru" whose meteoric celebrity turned to notoriety earlier this year when he resigned as the consultant creative director at the Millennium Dome, crying in frustration that the Millennium Experience could turn out to be "crap".

This short book, written with the verve, wit and plausibility that has powered Bayley's rise from his humble origins as a design historian, is his revenge. It takes in a lot more than the Dome. He detects New



Labour's incipient fascism in its Orwellian instant-rebuttal machine, Excalibur, and its love of the pseudo-event, demonstrated in Cool Britannia and the rebranding of Britain. His love of spin he attributes - hardly originally - to the man who caused his departure from the dome: the New

Millennium Experience Company's single shareholder, Peter Mandelson.

Bayley warns: "Here is a Government which strikes liberal poses, but is in fact decidedly authoritarian. Without wanting to indulge in hysterical exaggeration, New Labour's obsession with style and propaganda has much in common - at least in the structural sense recognised by anthropologists and historians - with the Fascist governments of pre-war Germany and Italy." For Blair's "the People" read Hitler's "Volk".

To the style-conscious Bayley, philistinism is as much a crime as fascism. He has fun with Lord Irvine's wallpaper and Chris Smith's unfortunate book, *Creative Britain*. The most energetic and interesting pages are devoted to the Dome and his unpleasant experience there. Sadly, this account will not be much use to historians.

He calls the press officer Gez Sagar as "a shiftily little character" whose training in Walworth Road has produced the "furtive retraction and denial" style of public relations, typical of New Labour. Yet we learnt far more about where the bodies are buried from Bayley's diary published in April's *Esquire* magazine. What we do learn is that buried in this heavily polluted site is "a bright orange barrier layer of plastic... just below the surface, both to contain the toxins and warn men with shovels of the shimmering subterranean threat."

Bayley's case rests on the Dome having been hijacked by New Labour as "a political advertisement". This conflict between the genuine creativ-

ity available in Britain and the closed, Civil Service mentality of those running it has produced "a paradigm of bad management", where the answer to every problem is to call in the consultants. The problem is compounded by Mandelson's "disposal attitude to aesthetics" and political slipperiness. This has led to such stratagems as the invention of a non-existent sport - Surfball, supposedly to be played in the Dome - in order to fool a parliamentary committee.

Without creative leadership - and here I heartily agree with Bayley - the Dome is an empty shell where the designers are like film crew "asked to make a movie without a director and without a script". There is enough advertising money to make the Dome a successful visitor destination. "The tragedy is the lost opportunity," in Bayley's view: "The man responsible for hijacking a project that could have been one of the great international world exhibitions, but is instead going to be a crabby and demoralising theme park, is Peter Mandelson."

From its title onwards, Bayley's polemic relies heavily on the arguments of Susan Sontag's 1964 essay *Notes on 'Camp'*. Camp, she argued, signified the triumph of style over content. Whole schools of cultural theory have been built on such deciphering of the iconography of everyday life; it is a real pleasure to see the methodology applied to a concrete political situation. The victory of style over content sums up New Labour nicely. Yet we must ask whether Bayley, who sees typography "as far, far more



Dome experience revealed

important in the general run of things than politics itself", isn't a bit camp. He is the quintessential product of the culture of consumption. Given his insights as the Dome's stylist, this book could have done with more content. Nonetheless, when he abandons his preening prose and point-scoring to write an open letter to the Prime Minister we can see that, about the Dome at least, Bayley is right.

London truly is a creative place, he writes, and in the Dome the opportunity existed to make "Greenwich a comprehensive showcase for talent and expertise". In his view, "the Millennium Experience should be a confident expression of a vision, based on superb academic research, supported by sponsors who are cultural and technical collaborators, not merely sources of funds, and executed with uncompromising bravura by the very best architects, artists, film-makers, musicians, writers and designers."

But as long as the politicians are in charge, that won't happen. The Dome remains an intellectually empty space, built on politically poisoned ground.

ROBERT HEWISON

TUESDAY POEM

NO LAZARUS
BY DANNIE ABSE

At the time of the Resurrection
not one person rose up
from the cemeteries of London.
But, at Marylebone Road,
a procession of clothed dummies
streamed out of Madame Tussaud's,
arms raised, wild, shouting Hallelujah.

The Archbishop of Canterbury
and other official sources
denied a computer error.

Our poems today and tomorrow come from Dannie Abse's new collection *Arctidia, One Mile* (Hutchinson, £6.99), which marks his 75th birthday. The exhibition, Dannie Abse: Poet and Doctor, runs at Church Farm House Museum, Hendon, London NW4 until 15 November

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Vice-Admiral Sir John Hayes

IN SEPTEMBER 1939, when the Second World War broke out, John Hayes was the junior Navigating officer (N) in *Vindictive*, the cadet training cruiser, after three years as a specialist navigator, spent mainly in *Fowey*, a sloop in the Persian Gulf, and with four years seniority as a Lieutenant.

During the next six years he would survive the sinking of the *Repulse*, the surrender of Singapore and the disintegration of Convoy PQ 17. He was one of that generation of officers who had lived through the singular rigours of Dartmouth and began to enjoy the relative peace of warroom life in the old Navy and the last years of peace wherever it took them. They were to start their war as junior officers, and those who survived would find themselves competing for professional survival and promotion when it ended and the Fleet began to contract, just as they were in the zone for a brass hat or a fourth stripe.

Christened John Osler Chattock Hayes, Hayes inevitably became known as Joc, which is how he is remembered in the Navy. He entered via Dartmouth in 1927 and went on to enjoy most of the 39 years he spent on the active list and the 32 more in nominal retirement.

He was born in Bermuda in 1913, to the wife of an Army doctor in the RAMC. Before the Second World War, he had survived life in the gunrooms of the college, of the *Royal Oak* in the Mediterranean and the stately cruiser *Cumberland* on the China station, before going as a Sub-Lieutenant to the older light cruiser *Danae* in his native West Indies.

Vindictive had been demilitarised in 1937, and mobilisation meant a need for regular officers in the ships to come out of reserve. Hayes became N of the old light cruiser *Cairo*, manned mainly by ratings from the recently formed Humber division of the old RNVR. A navigational near-miss with a channel buoy during the passage of an East Coast coal convoy revealed that he had an eye problem. One consultant pronounced that he should never have been entered; another attributed the incident to strain.

He was discharged to shore early in 1940, but his dismay and uncertainties were resolved by an appointment to the old battle-cruiser *Repulse*. He had acted as Accountant officer as well as Navigator in *Fowey*; now he was remustered as Signal Officer, and again as only the second N.

Admiral Sir Tom Phillips had been serving in the Admiralty for some time when he found himself sent to sea. He was far from enthusiastic about the doctrine of "naval air" and a strong partisan of the battleship. He took his little



'When I bobbed up, the great iron structure of the main top skidded just above my head as the ship plunged on and down with the screws still turning'

squadron, the *Prince of Wales*, *Repulse* and four elderly destroyers, without air cover on a fruitless reconnaissance east of the Malay peninsula which ideally should have been left to land-based aircraft – a grounding had denied him the carrier *Indomitable* intended for his force.

The result was that, within the hour, the two capital ships were sunk by Japanese aircraft on 10 December 1941. As Captain S.W. Roskill, the Navy's official historian of the Second World War, found, the Admiral's "belief that air cover would meet him off Kuantan, when he had given Singapore no hint that he was proceeding there, demanded too high a degree of insight from the officers at the base".

It was wishful thinking, described as a reluctance to break radio silence. Hayes called it a "lethal mistake". However, defined, Churchill later admitted that the *Repulse* was a

pedagogic was "the most direct shock" he felt in the war, and despite some brilliant and valiant ship-handling it cost the lives of the Admiral, his Flag Captain, 327 men from the flagship and 513 from the *Repulse*, which sank within eight minutes, turning over at 20 knots after three torpedoes opened her port side.

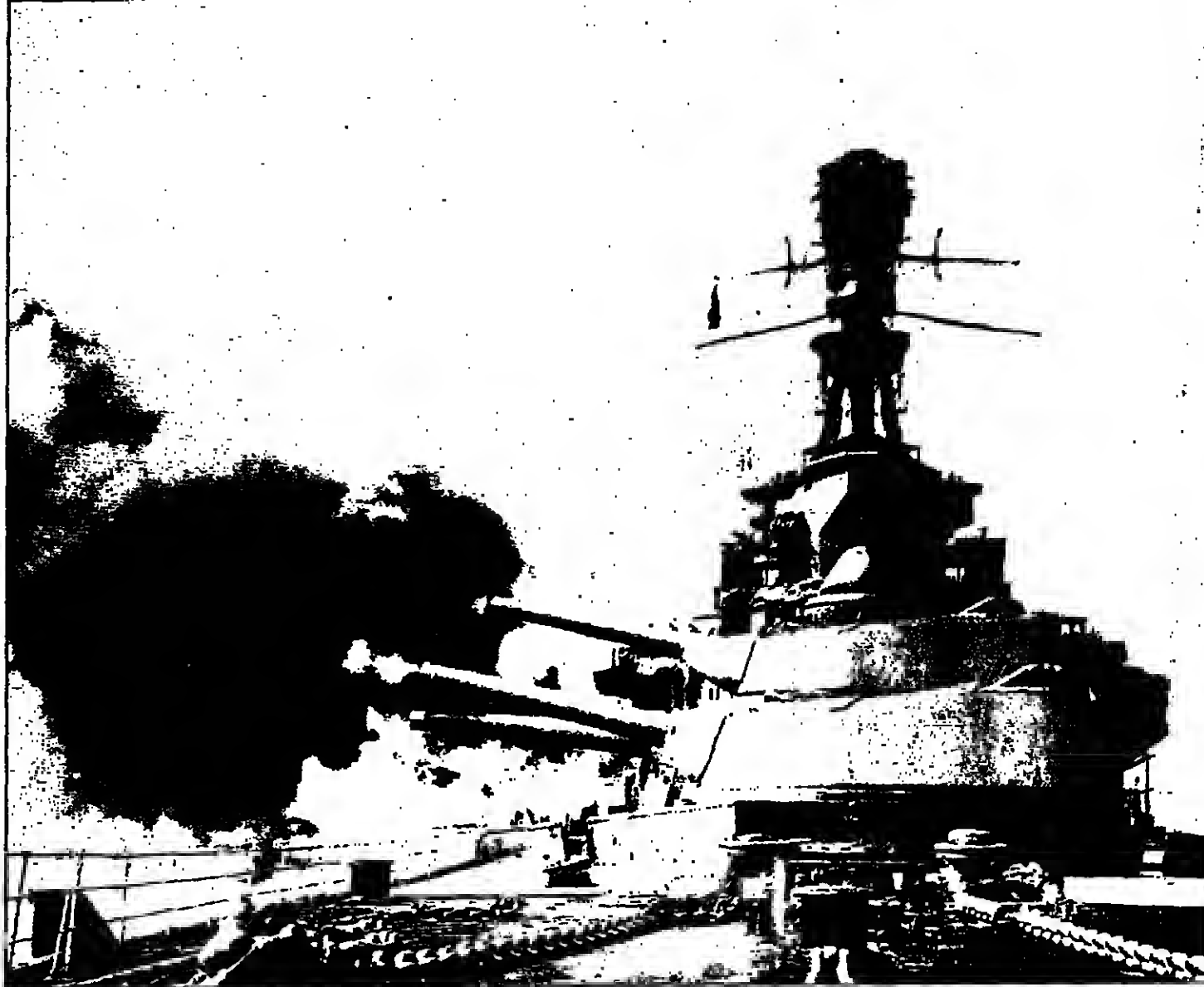
Hayes was lucky. Out on the signal deck, he found his movements being "dictated by gravity, like one of those balls on a bagatelle table that bounces off pins... the funnel, red hot from steaming, the port flag lockers, normally 50 feet above the waterline, they were almost awash, and so overboard helplessly and down for what seemed a long time. When I bobbed up, the great iron structure of the main top, normally some hundred feet above the waterline, skidded just above my head as the ship plunged on and down with the screws still turning". Hayes's year in *Repulse* would always remain to him "the centre of gravity of my naval life". Not surprisingly, perhaps.

Rescued by the old destroyer *Electra*, which did more than yeoman work that day, Hayes returned to Singapore. As naval liaison officer to the 2nd Battalion, the Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders, (who, perhaps partly because of his initials, made him an Honorary "Jock"), he did great work there in assembling "a motley armada" to lift the soldiers off the Malay Peninsula.

Their Colonel and Joc were last across the causeway appropriately piped, albeit in the Caledonian mode. Hayes was evacuated to Batavia in the new destroyer *Jupiter*, having witnessed with dismay and contempt the breakdown of army discipline, especially among the Australian troops, as they waited to be surrendered. A frustrating passage to Ceylon (as Sri Lanka was then called) in a Dutch coaster and an onward passage in a troopship to Liverpool brought him home.

He became SSO (Staff Officer, Operations) to the newly promoted Rear-Admiral Louis "Turtle" Hamilton, commanding the 1st Cruiser Squadron with his flag in *London*. In July 1942, when escorting Convoy PQ 17 carrying supplies to Russia, the naval force and its convoy were ordered to scatter by that weary First Sea Lord Sir Dudley Pound, mistakenly apprehensive that the German battle-cruiser *Tirpitz* was at large in their vicinity.

This decision, "the wisdom of which was doubtful from the start, was thus made disastrous when translated into action", and cost 23 of the 36 merchant ships involved – "the poignancy of the tragedy is only accentuated by our present knowledge of how easily it would have been avoided", according to Roskill in 1968.



RMS *Repulse* in 1939. Hayes was serving on the old battle-cruiser when she was torpedoed in 1941. She sank in eight minutes

At the time, the C-in-C Home Fleet, Admiral Sir John Tovey, considered that "the order to scatter the convoy had been premature; its results were disastrous". Once again Hayes had been fortunate. But in 1968, when David Irving's *The Destruction of Convoy PQ 17* was published, his contemporaneous pencilled notes, once flown to his C-in-C by a reliable old Walrus amphibian in order to preserve radio silence, were of material help to Commander J.E. Broome, who had commanded an Escort Group in close support of the convoy and now successfully sued his critic for what Hayes called "vicious fabrication".

Hayes stayed with the Home Fleet until 1944 when he went out to the Mediterranean, on the staff of Admiral Gerard Mansfield. In 1945 he was promoted Commander, and appointed OBE for his work in the liberation of Greece from invasion and from Communism. Promoted to

Captain in 1953, he commanded a frigate squadron off South Africa. Alas, his eyes troubled him again, and he was never to command a large ship. But his merits were recognised. He became one of the principal appointees, for commanders and more junior officers, under the Second Sea Lord and then Naval Secretary to the First Lord, a post which he filled for two years until he was promoted to the Flag List in 1962.

In 1964 he flew his flag as FO Flotillas in the Home Fleet, and then as second-in-command of the Western Fleet. His flag in the already obsolescent cruiser *Tiger*, he revisited Bermuda once more. He was advanced to Vice Admiral in 1965 and his last appointment was Flag Officer Scotland and Northern Ireland from 1965 to 1968 when he retired. He had been appointed CB in 1964 and was advanced to KCB in 1967.

He then embarked on a long and happy so-called retirement; it is very pleasing to see the longevity of so many sailors who survived particularly trying times on active service. Admiral Sir Frank Twiss attributed the phenomenon in part to the pre-war regimen at Dartmouth.

Hayes worked hard as Chairman of the Scottish Council of King George's Fund for Sailors (1968-78) and of the Cromarty Fifth Port Authority (1974-77). He was a member of the Royal Company of Archers (the Monarch's bodyguard in Scotland) and from 1977 to 1988 Lord-Lieutenant for Ross and Cromarty, Skye and Lochalsh.

He recorded his recreations as walking, music and writing and in 1991 published a valuable autobiography entitled *Face the Music*. This is well worth reading and makes a fitting and lasting memorial to a long and rewarding life. It is a valuable guide for any rising officer in even

a shrinking navy: how to restore discipline and improve morale in an unhappy ship, how to serve two masters – First Lord and First Sea Lord – without losing the respect of either or one's own integrity, and how to make the disappointed make the best of things when determining their destinies; all are evidenced.

John Hayes was a dedicated officer, who could tell a joke against himself, and it was the date of his birth more than anything else which tapered his career.

A. B. SAINSBURY

John Osler Chattock Hayes, naval officer; born 9 May 1913; OBE 1945; CB 1964, KCB 1967; Flag Officer, Flotillas, Home Fleet 1964-66, Scotland and Northern Ireland 1966-68; Lord-Lieutenant of Ross and Cromarty, Skye and Lochalsh 1977-88; married 1939 Rosalind Finlay (two sons, one daughter); died Inverness 7 September 1998.

Fritz Reckow

BY GENERAL agreement, Fritz Reckow had one of the sharpest brains in all musicology – "a mind like a needle", in the words of one admiring colleague. His heart lay in the Middle Ages, but his relentless curiosity, which extended from medieval organum through Wagner and Rietz to questions of computer applications in music, meant that his interest was directly engaged across the entire eight centuries of Western music.

Reckow was faithful to the south-eastern corner of Germany for most of his life. He was born and schooled in Bamberg, before moving in 1959 just down the road to the University of Erlangen, a little to the north of Nuremberg, to study musicology. His studies were completed at the universities of Basel and Freiburg-im-Breisgau, where in 1965 he was awarded a doctorate in musicology. His subsidiary topics were medieval

history (Middle Latin philology in particular) and New Testament literature and exegesis.

From 1965 to 1979 he worked with the renowned musicologist Hans Heinrich Eggebrecht on the *Dictionary of Musical Terminology*, published under the auspices of the Institute for Musicology of the University of Freiburg-im-Breisgau and the Mainz Academy of Science and Literature; from 1973, for six years, Reckow was in charge of the project.

He began lecturing – and a Reckow lecture was guaranteed to stimulate lively interest – at Freiburg in 1966, with occasional secondments to the universities of Basel and Hamburg. In 1979 he turned down the offer of a chair at the University of Vienna in favour of a professorship in Kiel, where he also became director of the Musicological Institute. He was to remain in Kiel until 1987, when in the final move of his career he took up



Path-breaking musicology

a similar position at the University of Erlangen-Nürnberg.

Fritz Reckow's contribution to the study of medieval music was enormous. Two related themes that ran intertwined through his career were

the relationship between music and language, and the idea of music as language, themselves topics borrowed from the medieval mind. Indeed, this ability to cast off the academic accretions of the intervening centuries and examine a problem with his curiosity unclouded by anachronisms was one of the distinguishing features of Reckow's scholarship, as of all outstanding medievalists. He realised straightaway that understanding the medieval mind meant embracing its own intellectual constructs – linguistic, mathematical and architectural – and sought to understand medieval music in those terms.

Reckow first made his mark with his PhD dissertation, a seminal examination of "Anonymous IV", a 13th-century treatise that is one of the most important surviving sources of information about the polyphony composed and performed

at Notre Dame in Paris in the late 12th and early 13th centuries – the beginnings, in fact, of the western musical tradition. Among the topics that Reckow tackled in this thesis was the problem of rhythm in two-voice organum – an obscure enough subject, perhaps, if you're standing outside the discipline, but Reckow's unexpected insights turned the academic status quo on its head: it was clear that a major analytical mind had emerged.

A stream of further articles consolidated his position as probably the most radical and fruitful mind in medieval musicology, culminating in his path-breaking – or rather, path-reestablishing – *Organum-Begriff und frühe Mehrstimmigkeit* ("The Concept of Organum and Early Polyphony", 1975), which again derived its power from Reckow's ability to move inside the medieval imagination.

He took as his starting-point the analogy drawn by many medieval commentators between the organ and polyphonic music and assiduously traced that relationship back to the mathematical constructs of the ancient Greeks. The American musicologist Charles Atkinson, in recommending Reckow for a Distinguished Visiting Professorship at Ohio State University (a position he held in 1986), described "The Concept of Organum" as "without doubt one of the most impressive and insightful studies I have ever read". Musicologists still speak of this monograph with a respect which approaches awe.

Yet Fritz Reckow wasn't some ivory-tower intellectual: music mattered to him as living expression and active pursuit. He was an important figure in Nuremberg's International Organ Week. He fought – successfully – to have the offices of the

complete edition of Wagner's letters transferred to his university, Erlangen, a short drive south through rural Franconia from the hallowed portals of Bayreuth. And, marrying the theoretical with the practical, one of his (still unpublished) studies tackled the question of naturalness vs craft in the composition of music from Lully, the first composer of the Sun King, to the first enfant terrible of the 20th century, Stravinsky.

Reckow would have laughed at the anachronism, but the image of Umberto Eco's cowed monastic investigator in *The Name of the Rose* presses forward. What this particular investigator discovered quite simply rewrote history.

MARTIN ANDERSON

Fritz Reckow, musicologist; born Bamberg, Germany 29 March 1940; married 1964 Elke Vollbrecht; died Erlangen, Germany 30 August 1998.

Ray Bowden

RAY BOWDEN was paid perhaps the ultimate footballing compliment in March 1933 when the most successful manager the English game had then known asked him to replace a star performer in one of the greatest of all club sides.

The Arsenal boss Herbert Chapman was keen for the mild-mannered Cornishman, then playing his trade with Second Division Plymouth Argyle, to succeed the brilliant but ageing inside-forward David Jack in a Gunners team which was on the verge of lifting the Championship and which would sweep all before it as the decade progressed. So keen, in fact, that when Bowden refused his first approach, he made another, and another, agreement finally being secured on Chapman's third visit to Devon.

Such apparent reluctance to embrace the big time might seem pe-

culiar to observers of the cash carnival that football has become in the 1990s, but in an era when all players received a maximum wage, a transfer did not have the same financial implications that it has today. Eight pounds a week was still only eight pounds a week, whether it emanated from the gleaming marble halls of Highbury or the more modest surroundings of Home Park.

Still, the manager's persistence paid off and Bowden, who cost £4,500 and was Chapman's last major signing before his premature death in 1934, immediately justified the great man's judgement by helping Arsenal to clinch that term's title, though he had arrived too late for a medal.

He made up for that in comprehensive manner, playing a significant role as his new club went on to complete a Championship hat-trick over the next two campaigns. In addition,

he took part in the 1936 FA Cup Final triumph over Sheffield United, won six England caps and enjoyed two outings for the Football League.

Bowden was a graceful half-player whose slender, almost frail build belied a sinewy strength, although he would have made more than his 138 league and Cup appearances for the Gunners but for a nagging vulnerability to ankle injuries. His passing was smooth and thoughtful, making him a regular creator of goals for others as well as scoring 47 of his own in League and Cup competition.

He formed a productive right-wing partnership with the dashing Joe Hulme and became an able if often unobtrusive foil for the rest of a sumptuous forward line consisting of Ted Drake, Mex James and Cliff Bastin. All his England honours were earned during his Arsenal so-

jour, the highlight of his two-year international career being the so-called Battle of Highbury in 1934, when he helped to defeat the world champions, Italy. The game – in which he played alongside no less than six of his club colleagues, a record – earned its lurid tag when the visitors, apparently misconstruing the intent of a vigorous early challenge from the ultra-competitive Drake, resorted to brutal tactics.

Bowden, who had worked as a solicitor's clerk on leaving school, came to the notice of Plymouth Argyle after netting ten times in an amateur match for his native Looe. He joined the Pilgrims in 1926 and won a Division Three (South) title going in 1929/30 before Chapman persuaded him that he had a glittering future in north London.

In 1937 George Allison, Chapman's successor, opted to reshuffle

his side and Bowden was sold to Second Division Newcastle United for £5,000. The West Countryman enjoyed his time with the Tynesiders, for whom he scored a hat-trick against Swansea on the day before England declared war on Germany. The last surviving major contributor to Arsenal's remarkable achievements in the 1930s saw his professional soccer career end with the outbreak of hostilities and later he returned to Plymouth, where he became a sports outfitter.

IVAN PONTING

Edwin Raymond Bowden, footballer; born Looe, Cornwall 13 September 1908; played for Plymouth Argyle 1926-33, Arsenal 1933-37, Newcastle United 1937-39; won six England caps 1934-36; married (one son); died Plymouth, Devon 23 September 1998.



Bowden's slender build belied a sinewy strength

CP's 20/3/20



President Yeltsin, centre, in Moscow flanked by Tom Mori and his wife, Yasuko. Mori sold two of Yeltsin's books in Japan

Tom Mori

TOM MORI was the chairman and owner of the oldest established and highest literary agency in Japan, the pre-eminent agent for Asian translation rights and well known in publishing circles all over the world. He had an exceptional understanding both of his own, Eastern culture and of that of the West. Tom Mori's slogan was, aptly, "Agency to Span the East & West".

He was born in Manchuria in 1942. When Chairman Mao's forces advanced the Mori family escaped with their only child and his father secured a job with Mitsubishi and was posted to New York. This gave Tom a remarkable grounding in English and a deep love of all things American.

He finished his studies in Japan at the prestigious Keio University in Tokyo and was then persuaded by the great American pioneering publisher of Japanese and Asian material Charles E. Tuttle, his uncle by marriage, to join the literary agency that Tuttle had founded in 1948 in Tokyo to introduce works by foreign authors to the Japanese market. Although he went into an agency with an existing structure, at the age of 24 the young Tom Mori brought a fresh mind and enthusiasm to the business. The Tuttle-Mori Agency - as the Charles E. Tuttle Literary Agency became - is 50 years old this year.

Each year the Frankfurt Book Fair would ring with the sound of Mori's

laughter. Travelling widely in Europe and America, he sought out authors he felt would be of interest to Japanese readers and persuaded Japanese publishers to give them a chance.

He opened up the Japanese market not only to best-selling fiction and non-fiction authors such as Frederick Forsyth, Jeffrey Archer, John Grisham, Patricia Cornwell, Boris Yeltsin, Simon Schama and Alan Bullock, but also to children's writers and illustrators in-

tended the three-day housewarming party the Mori held in Arizona in June 1996: nearly 200 guests from all over the world flew in for feasts, sightseeing and line dancing.

The agency became wholly his in 1978 and he set about assembling a first-class team, many of them female graduates - unusually for a Japanese firm at the time - who were not only committed to books, but multilingual. Each year they saw more of the translations that had

as traditional scouts in London and New York. Mori added representatives in Munich, Milan and Paris.

Tom Mori was a man of strong character and great individuality. He wore a personalised watch - a gold Rolex studded with diamonds and latterly with Navajo turquoise. He was a talented linguist, learning Italian in order to secure a big Italian publisher's business. He had a beautiful singing voice and sang in the Kremlin with Boris Yeltsin, whose books *Against the Grain* (1990) and *The View from the Kremlin* (1994) he had sold in Japan, but he was equally at ease with a taxi driver. He was passionate about golf and had just represented Tiger Woods's autobiography.

In July Mori was diagnosed with cancer just before leaving for a summer break in Arizona, where he had designed and built a house for his family. He had married a fellow graduate of Keio, Yasuko Sanobe; they celebrated their 25th wedding anniversary in March.

He was full of plans for the future of the business despite the recession in Asia and pleased that his son, Ken, had joined his team in the previous year.

NINA MARTYN

He was a talented linguist, learning Italian to secure a big Italian publisher's business. He had a beautiful singing voice and sang in the Kremlin with Boris Yeltsin

cluding Roald Dahl and Beatrix Potter, Eric Hill and Michael Foreman, as well as the more literary Saul Bellow, Julian Barnes, Norman Mailer and Anita Brookner; he also sold business books and academic works such as *Grove's Dictionary of Music*. If there was one book which he cited as his proudest deal it was Alexander Solzhenitsyn's *The Gulag Archipelago*.

Many of the authors he represented in Japan became close friends and at-

gone through the agency appearing on the Japanese best-seller lists and competing with indigenous writers.

The agency also dealt with other aspects of intellectual copyright: another branch was set up to handle electronic, video and television rights from abroad.

In the last decade operations had expanded in Asia and Tuttle-Mori became affiliated with agencies in Taiwan, China, Korea and Thailand, always working with local colleagues. As well

HISTORICAL NOTES

ALAN PALMER

Urgent news - by gun, bell and semaphore

TWO HUNDRED years ago this month the British public was anxiously awaiting news of victory or defeat in the naval war against republican France. During the last days of July 1798 London had learnt that Bonaparte was sailing eastwards from Toulon with a huge expeditionary force, stopping to seize Malta as his stepping stone to the Orient. What was his destination? Alexandria? Syria? Even India, perhaps? No one knew. It was some comfort that Nelson was said to be in pursuit. The hunt was on: a 38-year-old admiral chasing a 28-year-old general.

For week after week nothing was heard in England of this great pursuit. All August and September rumour and speculation fed minds hovering uncertainly between eager expectation and despondency. Had Nelson sunk the French fleet or was Bonaparte master of the Levant? Not until Monday 1 October did the sloop HMS *Mutine* reach Portsmouth with Nelson's report of his triumph at the mouth of the Nile exactly two months previously: only two of 13 French ships of the line escaped destruction; Bonaparte's army was stranded in Egypt, with no hope of supplies or of a mass return to France. On Tuesday morning, gun salutes from Hyde Park and the Tower rocked London; bells rang out from St Paul's and all the city churches. Through Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday there were jubilant peals in towns and villages across the country. That still remained the most effective way of broadcasting good news, as the 18th century gave way to the 19th.

This time-lag of eight and a half weeks between the battle in Aboukir Bay and the victory celebrations illustrates a problem of government in the pre-telegraph age: how to formulate grand strategic plans without recent information on the fate of distant campaigns? To ministers in London it was a familiar question, arguably a cause of defeat in the War of the American Revolution; it was to be posed acutely once more in 1805 during the cat-and-mouse manoeuvres of Nelson and Villeneuve in the months preceding Trafalgar. But it became a problem, too, for Bonaparte: for more than six months in Egypt he received no reports from Paris; and in 1805, though London learnt of Trafalgar on 6 November, 17 days after the battle, the first reports



Napoleon: almost fatally out of touch

did not reach Napoleon until 17 November, sent on to him by courier from Paris, as he was marching triumphantly on Vienna.

The news made little difference to his plans. The time-lag did, however, emphasise the need for contact between the political autocrat commanding a great army in the field and his executives in Paris. Semaphore stations linked the capital to the frontiers, from where flag relay posts were set up. But the greatest land empire since Charlemagne could not be governed by flag signals; fast couriers were essential.

The decisive crisis of political communication hit Napoleon in the Russian Campaign. Advanced staging posts at Vilna and Vitebsk enabled couriers to carry Napoleon's orders from Moscow to Paris in 15 days, but only so long as the weather held. With the early coming of winter in 1812 the system collapsed. Wild rumours spread across Europe. To the British public the absence of good and reliable news might be frustrating; to the French Empire it proved almost fatal. A madcap conspiracy in the capital raised the bogey of republicanism. "My presence in Paris is essential for France," Napoleon declared when he heard of the conspiracy, snowbound in Russia. A 1,100-mile journey by carriage and sledge brought him back to his capital in 13 days.

From then until the last days of the empire he never again risked isolating himself from Paris.

Alan Palmer is author of *An Encyclopaedia of Napoleon's Europe* and *Napoleon in Russia* (Constable, £20 and £18.95)

Why should anyone apologise for the frock?

THE INDEPENDENT ARCHIVE

29 SEPTEMBER 1988

Charlotte Du Cann, 'The Independent's' new fashion editor, nails her colours (not necessarily designer black) to the mast

STOP! IF you are not in the habit of reading fashion pages - or indeed if you are - suspend any formerly held opinions.

No page in any paper has to apologise for its presence, except for fashion. Fashion is constantly obliged to excuse its existence. Like the poor relation, it is reluctantly let in and made to suffer in a corner.

But poor is a bad adjective to attach to it. The fashion industry is the third-largest employer in Britain and has an export value of more than £1,700m. No one has to stand up and defend the right to take the British car seriously. So why should anyone have to apologise for the frock?

I will tell you: because of the prejudice. The attitude to fashion, the wearing of clothes, style or what you will in this country has more enemies than the *Dynasty* ogress, Alexis. This arises partly from a national distrust of conspicuous consumerism and partly from the fashion business itself. Distrusters and dissemblers, here are the reasons why you are wrong.

Fashion doesn't mean anything anyway. Fashion is the visual expression of the age. Nothing illustrates more vividly the aspirations and follies of a society than the clothes in which it garbs itself. Even the chummiest semiologist may understand the sartorial implications of a skirt that is short or puffed like a meringue or worn by a man.

Why, for example, does a decade that formerly dressed itself in sharp-money suits and sober conformity now desperately wish to be seen to be dressed as a hippy? Is this

merely a whim of clubland dressing, or several designers in search of a new nostalgia? Or does this herald a new direction, a search for a more liberal attitude? Should the Tories be worried? Read this page.

Style is dead. In spite of numerous articles that declare this new truth, style is not dead. Style is not something that was invented by a materialistic economy eager to convert a nation of previously delighted citizens into rapacious consumers. Style is a visual expression of self: it is the outside declaring what is inside. The recent "designer" years have reduced style to concerning itself with simply the outside, sans content.

Red is black. The language that fashion uses, like all jargons, confuses more than it elucidates. There is no reason for words like greige (a colour) or accessorise (a verb) except as shorthand for those in the business. Who, except those fluent in fashion-speak, knows that even though we are not French a maillot is a swimming costume, that though we are not American trousers are pants,

that even though we are not 83 years old a frock is never a dress? Fashion-speak uses words like directional and knows what they mean. Do you? I don't.

Only bimbos care about fashion. Contrary to received opinion, it is possible to look good and still have a brain. Dressing with a deliberate disregard for form and beauty is not a sign of intellectual or moral supremacy, only of mealy-mouthed imagination. Fashion is not a funeral, in spite of its predilection for wearing black: it is a pleasure. It is as amusing to put on a new hat, it feels as good to put on a new white shirt, as it does to eat a perfect peach, or jump into the sea. You would have to be a kill-joy puritan to deny that. Are you? I'm not.

Only girl bimbos with good legs care about fashion. Contrary to received opinion, it is possible to be not 19, not size 10 and not female, and still be interested in looking good. Are you? Read this page.

I would die for that hat. No one should die for anything, let alone a hat, even if it is designed by Chanel. This page is not for fashion victims (though it may observe them). It is for those who know that there is life after the shops close; that fashion does just not happen on the catwalk, any more than art does in galleries or books in literary criticism; that the clothes we wear are inspired as much by film, music, history, sport and travel as they are by designers. Jump in here!

From the Fashion page of 'The Independent', Thursday 29 September 1988

GAZETTE

BIRTHS, MARRIAGES & DEATHS

BIRTHS

CAPLIN: On 25 September to Aileen (nee Connolly) and John, a son Leon Daniel, a brother for Max.

DEATHS

BETTS: Jonathan, OBE, husband of Suzanne and dear father to Daniel and Julian, died peacefully in hospital after a short illness on 24 September, aged 58. The funeral service will be held at Lambeth Crematorium Chapel on Saturday 3 October 1998 at 11.30am. Family request no flowers please. Donations if desired to a charity of your choice.

NICHOLSON (nee Love): Christine, of Brighton and formerly London, died in Rouen while on holiday, aged 65. Lecturer for many years at the City Lit. Remembered with great love by Michael, her children Jane, Paul and Caroline, by her grandchildren Carmen, Mabel, Anna and Sarah, and by Aresio, Aldo and Geoff. Cremation at the Downs Crematorium, Brighton, at 2.15pm on 2 October. Donations to the Medical Foundation for the Care of Victims of Torture, 104-106 Grafton Road, London NW5 4BD. Any enquiries to 42 Temple Street, Brighton BN1 3BH.

Announcements for BIRTHS, MARRIAGES & DEATHS are charged at £6.50 a line (VAT extra).

BIRTHDAYS

Mr Michelangelo Antonioni, film director, 88; Air Marshal Sir David Atkinson, former Director-General, RAF Medical Services, 74; Mr Gene Antry, actor, 87; Lord Avebury, former Liberal MP, 70; Sir John Balcombe, a former Lord Justice of Appeal, 73; Mr Robert Benton, film director, 66; Mr Richard Bonynge, conductor, 68; Mr Chris Broad, cricketer, 41; Mr Sebastian Coe, Olympic gold medalist, 42; Mr Gareth Davies, rugby footballer, 42; Mr John Dawes, rugby player and coach, 58; Mr Colin Dexter, writer, 68; Miss Anita Ekberg, actress, 67; Professor Dorothy Eramet, philosopher, 94; Mr Alasdair Fraser QC, Director of Public Prosecutions for Northern Ireland, 52; Mr Lance Gibbs, cricketer, 64; Miss Patricia Hodge, actress, 52; Professor Richard Hodges, archaeologist, 46; Mr Henry Keswick, chairman, Matheson & Co, 60; Mr Jimmy Knapp, general secretary, Rail, Maritime and Transport Union, 58; Mr Stanley Kramer, film producer, 85; Mr Jerry Lee Lewis, rock and roll singer, 63; Mr Murray McLagan, Lord-Lieutenant of Mid Glamorgan, 68; Mr Rhodri Morgan MP, 59; Dr Colin Niven, Headmaster, Alton's School, 57; Canon Paul Oestreicher, former Director of the International Min-

istry, Coventry Cathedral, 67; Sir Michael Partridge, former Permanent Secretary, Department of Social Security, 63; Miss Elizabeth Scott, actress, 76; Mr David Steele, cricketer, 57; The Right Rev Richard Third, former Bishop of Dover, 71; Mrs Sarah Tyacke, Keeper of Public Records, 53; Mr Lech Walesa, former president of Poland, 55.

ANNIVERSARIES

Births: Tintoretto (Jacopo Robusti), painter, 1518; Miguel de Cervantes Saavedra, playwright and novelist, 1547; Horatio, Viscount Nelson, admiral, 1758; William Thomas Beckford, novelist, collector and spendthrift, 1760; Mrs Elizabeth Cleghorn Gaskell, novelist, 1816; William Whiteley, department store pioneer, 1831; Sir Billy Butlin, holiday camp pioneer, 1899; Trevor Wallace Howard, actor, 1913.

Deaths: Sir William Orpen, painter, 1931; Winifred Holtby, novelist, 1955; Bruce Bairnsfather, cartoonist, 1959; Carson McCullers, novelist, 1967; Wylan Hugh Auden, poet, 1973.

On this day, the police force inaugurated by Sir Robert Peel started duty in London, 1829; Italy declared war on Turkey over Tripoli, 1911; Turkey and Bulgaria signed the peace treaty of Constantinople, 1913; the Allies broke through the German Hindenburg Line, 1918; a British Mandate was proclaimed over Palestine, 1923; the BBC Third Programme started, 1946.

Today is the Feast Day of St Gabriel, St Michael and St Raphael, archangels, Saints Rhipsimé, Gaiana and Companions and St Theodota of Philippolis.

DINNERS

London MOD Naval and Civilian Officers Admiral Sir Jock Slater, First Sea Lord, accompanied by Lady Slater, was the guest of honour at a dinner held yesterday evening by the London Ministry of Defence Naval and Civilian Officers at Royal Naval College, Greenwich, London SE10. Rear-Admiral Jonathan Band presided.

BYRON SOCIETY

Lord Byron presided at a meeting and supper held yesterday evening by the Byron Society at St Ermin's Hotel, London SW1, on "Byron - East and West", a résumé of an international conference in Prague. Mr Geoffrey Bond, Chairman of the society, Dr Peter Cochran, Miss Christine Kenyon-Jones and Mr Michael Foot, Deputy Chairman, also spoke.

THE REV DONALD ENGLISH

A Service of Thanksgiving for the life and work of the Rev Donald English, past President of the Methodist Conference and World Methodist Council, and former Moderator of the Free Church Council, will take place on Friday 2 October at 12 noon at Methodist Central Hall, Westminster, London SW1. Tickets are not required.

LECTURES

National Gallery: Kathleen Adler, "Picturing Women (v): Manet, *Eva Gonzales*", 1pm. National Portrait Gallery: Liza Vaughan-Hughes, "The Deep River Ran On: the poetry of W.H. Auden", 1.10pm. Royal Commonwealth Society, London WC2: Sir Crispin Tickell, "Oceans and Ice Ages", 1pm.

ROYAL ENGAGEMENTS

The Duke of York, Peter, attends a gala performance and dinner in aid of the City Ballet of London at the Grosvenor House Hotel, London W1.

CHANGING OF THE GUARD

The Household Cavalry Mounted Regiment assumes the Queen's Life Guard at Horse Guards, 11am.

AMONG THE linguistic horrors with which we all contend there arises a particular horror in the Grocer (you see how I suffer on your behalf). Step forward, head bowed, the sales director of Varta batteries, Graham Verity. He asserts that "multipacks have protected and grown the grocery share of trade. Consumers are now

WORDS

CHRISTOPHER HAWTREE
larder fill, v.

buying batteries to "larder fill" for future use." He might say that the quotation marks imply post-modern irony in an age when

refrigerators have ousted the larder, but his gruesome "grow", his view of humanity as "consumers" and that tantological "future use" make us infer that he is a man who thinks "larder fill" a smart synonym for hoard or stockpile - unless scorned now, it might make the next edition of that recent vulgar New Oxford Dictionary.

Not la dolce vita

Ruth Sandberg's Italian holiday ended in a long jail sentence. Her crime? Ignorance of the law, says her brother. By Anne Hanley

Where Ruth Sandberg not serving an 11-year sentence in an Italian maximum security prison, she'd be back in the council flat in Colchester where she lived until last April, holding down odd jobs and looking after her two small children.

"Funny life, if you think about it, for someone who's meant to have been the ringleader of a major drug smuggling racket. I mean, with all the money they say she's made, you'd think she could afford something more luxurious," muses her brother Nick. Then again, there are a lot of funny things about her case, he adds: "like the idea that the Neapolitan mafia would let a woman - and a foreign woman at that - run a big drugs ring. Or that she could be convicted on the evidence of a co-defendant. Or that she could be convicted in her absence, without even knowing that a trial had taken place. It doesn't add up."

Had she not chosen to spend a week holidaying in northern Italy last April with her adoptive parents and her children Davide, seven, and Alexandra, four, Ruth might never have discovered that she was a wanted criminal, on the run from justice. The family was due to return to the UK the next day. They had moved from the seaside resort north of Venice to a large hotel near Treviso airport, ready for a morning departure. For Ruth, however, the sojourn in Italy was far from over.

"She'd handed in her passport at reception, like you have to do in Italian hotels, and they obviously ran some kind of check. Her name must have come up on the computer with flashing lights, because the next morning at breakfast 10 policemen with machine guns turned up and told her she was under arrest, right

there, in front of the kids," says Nick. She wasn't told why. Indeed, it took the Sandberg family weeks to find out that she'd been convicted of smuggling 150kg of cocaine into Italy. And it took them weeks to realise that the 90 days in which she could have appealed against the sentence had already elapsed.

In the meantime, Ruth had been transferred from Venice prison to a maximum security unit in Vigevano, south of Milan, had lost two stone and suffered a nervous crisis as the ghost of the 10 nightmarish years she spent in Naples between 1983 and 1993 came back to haunt her.

Ruth can receive one family visit and make one phone call each week. The usual practice of allowing journalists limited access to prisoners

clemency to the Italian head of state, Oscar Luigi Scalfaro. Now, with a seasoned civil rights lawyer on her case, Ruth's ignorance may prove to be her salvation.

Any number of procedural irregularities were committed in the Sandberg case, says lawyer Paolo Iorio: "Notification of the trial was delivered, in the first instance, to an old address in Naples where Ms Sandberg had not been resident for years. Then it was delivered to the wrong lawyer, one who had never represented Ms Sandberg. Then the document officially branding her as a fugitive was never signed by the judge. They made just about every mistake in the book."

No attempt was made to trace her through the British consulate in

whom she had never been close. "They're much friendlier now than they've been for years," Nick says, "but that isn't really saying much." For over a decade, Ruth wandered through France and Italy, doing odd jobs, falling in with petty criminals, and rarely calling home. "But despite the company she kept, she never got into drugs or prostitution; she never sank that low," Nick says.

For many years, Ruth remained locked in a stormy and often violent relationship in Naples, with a man ten years her senior called Ciro Di Martino. Di Martino, who died of a brain haemorrhage in 1985, had a string of convictions for minor offences.

"He wasn't a hood, exactly, in that he probably wasn't even violent with other men, only with people he had some power over, like my sister," recalls Nick, who met Ciro during a visit to Naples in the late Eighties. "He was a bit of a criminal, but he wasn't much good at it. Everyone knew what he was up to. You just had to go into the local bar and they'd tell you."

Ciro made Ruth put their first child, Giarda, up for adoption, telling her that the state was removing the baby to provide her with special treatment she needed for her spinal bifida. "He gave her papers to sign and said there was nothing she could do about it. It's the only thing my sister's ever done in her life that she feels really guilty about," says Nick. "Something she found out afterwards made her think the baby wasn't that ill after all. Ciro just wanted a healthy son."

Their second child, Davide, born in August 1991, was just the ticket, but after a while even that failed to keep Ciro from beating Ruth. Taking advantage of a spell during which Di Martino was behind bars, and having made sure that his passport would be confiscated if he were

'If she were involved in drug-trafficking, she would have had something to show for it'

has, in her case, been suspended. But all in all, said her brother Nick after a visit to his sister last week, she's not being treated badly.

"She's still a bit freaked out. But they've got her on heavy medication now, and she's feeling a little better. She perked up no end when I told her that we might have good news for her soon. One way or another, we're going to get her out."

During those first weeks in Vigevano prison, with Ruth's mental health deteriorating fast and the Sandberg family hamstrung by its ignorance of the vagaries of Italian law, the fact that Ruth had never been informed of her trial seemed a well nigh insuperable barrier: an appeal to the Court of Human Rights in Strasbourg - a process which can take three years or more - was considered, as was a request for

Naples, although that, said a resigned-sounding official there, was only to be expected: "the Italian authorities are only obliged to contact us if a British citizen has been arrested and in this case, obviously, there was no arrest," he said.

With such glaring breaches of procedure, Mr Iorio is confident that Ruth will be granted a second chance to appeal. She may even be allowed to go back to Britain and her children while she awaits a hearing. But when she enters the dock for a re-run of the trial she never saw, Ruth will be brought face to face with a past she had long been struggling to forget.

Ruth always was, her brother says, "a bit of a delinquent, though she gets really angry when I tell people that". At the age of 18, she ran away from the adoptive parents to



Will Ruth Sandberg get a second chance to appeal?

let out on parole, Ruth headed back home to Essex, leaving no forwarding address.

No one, swears Nick, ever attempted to trace her: not the Di Martino family, nor the police when they came up with transcripts of some very unclear bugged phone conversations in which, they said, Ruth could be heard discussing a big drugs deal; nor the court when a co-defendant placed the blame on "the one person who wasn't there to defend herself," says Nick - swore that

Ruth had been pulling all the strings. Ruth's nine co-defendants got off with light sentences. Ruth, however, was given 11 years. The charges, Nick insists, would never have stood up had Ruth been in court to defend herself. The evidence, he says, speaks for itself: "My sister had a small baby in the house. She wouldn't let drugs through the front door after Davide was born. What's more, they never had a penny. If she were involved in big-time drug trafficking, she would have had some-

thing to show for it besides an 11-year prison sentence, wouldn't she?" Mr Iorio is more circumspect, but holds out more hope for Ruth now than at any time since her arrest: "I'm not going to go into the merits of this case. We've got to do one thing at a time, and for the time being, I'm just working on getting an appeal," he says. "But the slap-dash approach to this case doesn't seem to be limited to procedure. It looks to me like there's reasonable room for doubt about the sentence too."

D'ja hear about the priest and the barmaid?

A tiny village in Co Wicklow is overwhelmed by Ballykissmania. There's no escape - not even in the local pub. By Clive Gammon



Ballykiss - the TV locals BBC

YESTERDAY (SUNDAY), on the eve of its reincarnation as *Ballykissangel*, the BBC soap, the charming village of Avoca, Co Wicklow was, in every way, saturated. At one point, a coach from North Wales, a camper van with English plates, a tractor and a cavalcade of wedding limos leaving St Patrick's church came into honking conjunction.

And there was serious saturation also at Fitzgerald's pub, where drinkers had spilled out on to the street. At Fitz's, it seems, the stout is of superb quality. "It's a great pint," said one. "So fresh. They sell so much that it's always fresh."

But what Avoca is chiefly saturated with is Ballykissmania. Coach after coach with GB plates rolls in filled with fans of, as they prefer to call it, *Ballykiss*. They are intensely curious about the new series. What

will the new priest be like, the one who will take the place of beloved, tragic Father Peter? How can the new barmaid, played by Victoria Sumrell (in real life an Irish herself), possibly replace Assumpta?

And so they pile into the Ballykiss Mini Market where, under the loopy, paunchy play "Galway Bay" to buy the Ballykiss souvenirs which far outnumber the normal items of Leprechauniana - Ballykiss tea-towels, keyrings, tinsmells, bookmarks, fudge and naturally Ballykiss T-shirts which, unlike the *Tour de France* T-shirts, are not marked down.

And then they scatter to drink in the nights. Yvonne Fugwell has come all the way from Australia - she is a computer supervisor in Sydney - and now she stands on the old bridge over the Avoca River. "Everybody watches this at home," she says. "I've got

every episode on tape." She stares at the water. "Oh my God!" she exclaims suddenly. "This is the exact spot where Father Peter threw his clerical collar over the bridge..."

It's Fitzgerald's pub, though, that is the epicentre of Ballykissmania. Everybody wants to stand in front of it being snapped supping a pint. Most of the locals, however, prefer to hang out at the Avoca Inn across the street. Said Michael Byrne, "I come in here for a bit of peace". Told a new series is starting, he rejoins, "Is that right?" and turns back to his conversation with Quentin Doyle who works in a factory nearby. At my urging, they reluctantly turn their attention to Ballykissmania.

"There's tourists getting lost all the time looking for Ballykissangel," says Michael. "It would be better all round if they changed the

feckin' name of Avoca altogether."

"Mind you," says Quentin, I got £10 just for standing around outside Fitzgerald's for a half-hour when they were filming this new series."

And finally local pride takes over. "St Patrick's was the only church in the whole of feckin' Ireland that looked right on TV," says Quentin. "Have a drink," he adds. "That's the only cure for living around here."

Having a drink in Fitzgerald's is what everybody wants to do. And to talk about the new series. How can it possibly go on without Assumpta and Father Peter? Assumpta, you may recall, was just about to start a new life with Father Peter at the end of the last series when she was ruthlessly electrocuted mending a fuse in the basement of the pub.

Patricia Corcoran, who had travelled from Blackburn, was sanguine

about this: "It's like *Coronation Street*. They said it couldn't survive without Bet Gilroy, but it did."

Meantime the bar is a lot flashier than the one in the soap and there are jokey signs up that would have seriously upset Father Peter. Like "If Assholes Could Fly, This Place Would Be An Airport". But the tone of discussion in the group I join is more serious. It consists of the hardcore of guests left over from a wedding here the previous day. Plus the bride and groom themselves, Niamh and Johnny Craven, from Dublin. Niamh opines seriously. "The new priest... well, he won't be a liberal like Father Peter, that's for sure. But Ballykiss needed revamping."

This inspires a rebel thought from one of the guests who has clearly been in Fitzgerald's for some time. "An English priest trying to get it on

with a local girl!" he declares, referring to the last series. "That was twisted! Demeaning to Ireland!" "Ah, come on," says another. "There's a priest in Glencoe [a soap on Irish TV] who shags women. It took the BBC to make a good Irish soap."

"I'm going to miss the first bloody instalment!" squeals Niamh, who is about to leave with Johnny for Barbados.

I wander out of the bar and start across the bridge then, with his back to me but still unmistakable - the bulky figure, the silly tweed pork pie hat, the padded waistcoat. It has to be Brian Quigley; it has to be! It's *Ballykissangel*'s - fairly lovable - character of an entrepreneur.

Reality supersedes as a red-faced farmer turns round. But it just shows how infectious Ballykissmania can be after an hour or two in Fitzgerald's.

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JOYS OF MODERN LIFE

16. THE LOCAL CAFE BY LOUISA YOUNG



A COUPLE of years ago, a bunch of Serbians appeared in our neighbourhood and opened up a cafe. It is on the corner, with plate glass windows over the main drag on one side and the street where my brother lives on the other. It has three tables inside, two outside on the street on warm days, and a back room with a counter where five or six people can sit.

I arrive at 9.10am clutching my paper and ordering my cappuccino, having walked my child to school. The back room is already full of dark men in leather jackets with sad, dangerous faces. They sit alone, talking Serbo-Croat into mobile phones and smoking, or they sit in a group and argue hotly, smoking. We, the customers, imagine that they are planning revolutions and civil wars. We don't know whether they are refugees or war criminals. The waitresses are good-looking, slightly tense but friendly.

The male customers wonder hopefully whether perhaps it is a knocking-shop. The owner is tall and bearded, genial when he remembers to be. What is his story? We dare not ask. We think of wars and rumours of wars, and count ourselves lucky.

Once, I asked one of the girls what language they were speaking. "Yugo-

slavian", she said. I seem to remember there is no such language. They sell Serbian cheese pie and Serbian white bean soup. And pots of honey for 15p, and blanched almonds and cans of tomatoes which nobody ever buys. And chocolate croissants. And excellent coffee.

Some mornings, I sit with another mother from the school gates and we discuss love, divorce and alcoholism. Sometimes I find myself discussing the exact same subjects with total strangers; with only three tables, you end up sharing. Usually, my friend Clare sees me through the window and pops in to say good morning on her way to the station. My brother

and I are not alone. The children stick their noses up against the window and make faces at me. George, a Greek transsexual, may attempt to engage me in a political discussion.

The street outside has its population of local notables: the handsome and elegant Prince Man, whose real name is Colin, and who parades like a boulevardier in his perfect long plaits and his sharp suits, greeting all and sundry. There's the Tibetan-looking man who wears big woolly jumpers tucked into what look like pyjama bottoms. There's the old black man who carries a 10-ft white wooden cross over his shoulder, like Christ heading for Calvary.

My neighbour, Kameel, was in there this morning taking a break from marking exam papers. "This cafe is the best thing to have happened to this neighbourhood in years," he said, and he's right. Plenty of us work from home round my way. Nowadays, when we run into each other in the street, we say "Coffee?" to each other, and we have somewhere to go. We have a change of scene, a breath of air, somewhere to smoke without our children lecturing us. We can see people and converse during the day just as office folk do. It's fast becoming our canteen, our common-room, as it is for the Serbs. I've networked in there (I ran into a neighbour who is a BBC radio producer; over coffee he expressed an interest in doing a show based on a book I wrote). I've swapped garden cuttings; I've been wept on; I've had breakfast, lunch and tea; in fact, it's beginning to feel like home.

The main joy of it is that it's just a cafe, run by some people. It's not part of a chain; it's not themed; and it's not specially designed by a research focus group to appeal to the defined socio-economic needs of women like me. It's just a cafe in a neighbourhood. I told my friend from Clapham about it. "I'm jealous," she said. "I want a cafe."



What price perfection, and what size?

A new book traces the breast's changing shape from 'little balls of ivory' beloved in the Renaissance to the late 20th century's pneumatic grapefruits. By Sarah Lonsdale

Had Melinda Messenger been born in the Middle Ages, she would never have become the national celebrity she is today. Rather, she would have crammed her breasts into a restricting corset in an attempt to reduce them to the then fashionable size of walnuts. A thousand years ago, large breasts were good only for wet-nursing. At a time when girls were considered marriageable at the age of 12, breasts the size of "virginal buds" were all the rage.

Over the intervening millennium the ideal size of the female chest has steadily grown, from medieval walnuts, to Renaissance "apples in the prime" and "little balls of ivory", when well-endowed women would squeeze themselves into whalebone corsets, which often caused fractured ribs, bad breath and fainting fits, to the pneumatic grapefruits of the late 20th century. We are today in a state of near-hysteria about the female breast, according to an American academic, Dr Marilyn Yalom, when Page Three models become overnight celebrities and the new Wonderbra is delivered to American department stores in armoured cars.

In her new book, *A History of the Breast*, which traces its importance in society over the past 3,000 years, Dr Yalom argues that the farther breasts depart from their original nurturing function, the more men, and therefore society, become obsessed with the breast as erotic object. She points out that women in Africa and the Pacific walk about all day long with their breasts exposed, as they are needed for quick access by hungry children.

In these countries, other female parts, usually the buttocks, are the source of erotic potential. In the West, and especially the US, where fewer than a quarter of all mothers breast-feed their babies beyond the first few weeks of life, we have reached the stage when women will pay thousands of pounds, and risk their health, to increase their chest size to the supposedly ideal 38DD.

Conversely, when American plastic surgeons have been known to refuse women breast reduction operations until they get written consent from their husbands.

The author herself is a neat, petite, birdlike woman who on her own admission would have been prized

in the Middle Ages for her tiny breasts. "When I go on lecture tours, I always catch members of the audience - men and women - trying to see what sort of breasts I have. People can't help it. The size of a woman's breasts has become one of the identifying markers of her entire persona." Is it pure chance that in her publicity photographs, and in the high-necked, dark, demure frock she is wearing today, it is impossible to see any flesh below the collarbone?

In her book she puts forward the argument that Western men, deprived of the maternal breast and never growing breasts themselves, suffer from "breast-envy". "In a way you have to feel sorry for men," she says. "They never grow out of this infantile obsession with the



breast and spend their lives trying to return to a lost paradise. Even well-educated male friends have admitted to me that often the first part of a woman's body they scrutinise is the chest, not the face. They say they can't help it. They are programmed that way."

Men, she says, are irresistibly drawn to the nurturing power of the female breast, and the bigger the better. Her own domestic situation, however, appears if not to contradict this argument, at least to give men a little more credit. Her husband Irvine, she says, "never was a leg man" and she often catches his eyes straying as a large-breasted woman walks past. Yet he has chosen to marry a woman who possesses no more than virginal bums.

It is no accident that the author of this book is American. At least in this country and the rest of Europe, while no doubt a breast fetish exists, it is not illegal for women to take off their tops in public. Not only can

women in the States be arrested for indecent exposure if they reveal their breasts "at or below the areola" but when Dr Yalom first started researching the book four years ago, women in most American states were still being arrested for breast-feeding in public. Not only that, but when a New York woman recently admitted to enjoying the physical sensation when her baby fed at her breast, she was charged with assault and had her baby taken into care. "I had just finished writing a book about women in the French revolution, when they were exhorted to breast-feed for the sake of democracy itself. Yet in my country you had naked breasts in magazines and at the cinema, but a nursing mother could be arrested for indecent exposure. That's weird."

That is weird, and goes a long way to explain some of the more extreme statements in the book, such as: "Women's breasts are for men's pleasure alone" and, "For most of Western history women's breasts have been controlled by men." Although Dr Yalom does acknowledge the "delicious pleasure" a woman's breasts can give her, she devotes an entire chapter to the "erotic breast" with just one single reference to a female perspective. In her defence, she says that she scoured several centuries of literature on the breast, desperate to find "anything, anything at all, a poem, a fragment from a novel" where a woman expressed pleasure in her own breasts. The only female-authored reference she can find is in fact written by a lesbian nun, describing how she remembers her lover caressing her "little breasts." *The Sun* would have had a field day.

Of male-authored references to the joys of the female breast, we have in abundance, particularly memorable are the poems of the 16th-century French writer Clement Marot, whose descriptions of the female breast have little bearing on reality:

*A little ball of ivory
In the middle of which sits
A strawberry or cherry.*
Here are a few others, all of which, rather than making you bristle with indignation, are so far from the real world as to be laughable: "round as orient pearls, as soft as down"; "alabaster orbs"; "fair apples in the prime"; "lawn of milk"; and - my favourite - "cherrylets".

It is only in the last 30 years, says Dr Yalom, that we find women de-



Dr Marilyn Yalom, left: 'The size of a woman's breasts has become an identifying marker of her persona'

Gemma Naccache

scribing the erotic potential of their own breasts, and even then, female writers are aware of the dual purpose of the breast.

All the years of girlhood we wait for them, impatient to catch up, to have power inside our sweaters, to replace our mothers... /When the lovers lick them /And bring us there, there, in the fragrant wet, /When the babies nuzzle like bees.

That poem, by Alicia Ostriker, refers to something that Dr Yalom only glosses over - that because men love women's breasts, then pos-

sessing breasts does give us a certain power. And, hell, it's fun to don a Wonderbra from time to time and watch male colleagues desperately trying to prevent their eyes from being drawn to our chests.

Although the prevailing modern fashion for breasts is large and gravity-defying, from her research Dr Yalom has discovered that the fad for smaller breasts comes around about once every 60 to 80 years, and we are due for another bout of boyish chests in about 2020.

She also believes, however, that

after centuries of the erotic focus, the image of the breast will gradually mutate into something more sinister as the incidence of breast cancer rises, and women - and their partners - will live in fear of what their breasts may have in store for them. She even argues that today's obsession with large breasts is partly owed to society trying to laugh off the fatal potential of the breast.

"Today," concludes Dr Yalom, and not a little sententiously, "The breast reflects a medical and glob-

al crisis. We are anxious about our breasts just as we are anxious about the future of our world."

Try telling the man ogling Page Three that in reality his interest in the female form reflects a deep-seated fear about the potentially fatal nature of the female breast and, by extension, the future of the world itself.

A History of the Breast by Marilyn Yalom is published by Pandora, price £12.95. Breast Cancer Awareness month begins this week

REVELATIONS

LENNY KRAVITZ, NEW YORK, 1969

I went to church to become Michael Jackson



Lenny Kravitz: 'Music is my saviour, and a whip beating my back'

MY PARENTS lived in one of the nicest landmark blocks in Manhattan - right opposite the Metropolitan Museum of Art. But in complete contrast, because they worked odd hours, I stayed during the week with my grandparents in a rough area of Brooklyn called Bedford Stuyvesant - Mike Tyson, Biggie Smalls (The Notorious B.I.G.) and Spike Lee all came from there. It made life very interesting and I learnt to relate with all kinds of people. But then my father is a Russian Jew and my mother is from the Bahamas, so here I am in the middle.

My parents were both in show business and from a very young age, instead of leaving me home with a babysitter, they took me to see Count Basie, Ella Fitzgerald, Sarah Vaughan and James Brown. Obviously I didn't know the magnitude of these people, but I loved being there and it brought me to life. I even sat on Duke Ellington's lap while he played piano and once on my birthday he even performed "Happy Birthday" for me.

I'd always enjoyed music but the time it really changed my life was when I was just five years old and heard the Jackson Five for the first time. I was in Brooklyn at my grandparents' when "The Love You Save" came on the radio and, immediately, I knew that was what

I wanted to do. I really identified with this amazing little kid but somehow, I don't know how, I also heard the quality: the horns, funky guitar and incredible bass line. We bought the single and I played the song so often it must have worn out.

We didn't have a large mirror that I was tall enough to see into but for some reason we owned a big piece of plywood, which lived behind a door in the apartment, and I used to put it down over the carpet so I could get some slick movement. I would take a pencil for a microphone and perform my Jackson Five thing. The Jacksons had these really cool boots that they used to wear with pants which stopped at the knee. To copy them for my routine I would put on my rubber galoshes even though, disappointingly, they only came up to mid-calf. I also grew my hair into a nice big afro like Michael's. Instead of playing with toys, I would take the pots, pans and spoons out of the kitchen and pretend they were a drum kit. After a while I progressed to an old acoustic guitar - it belonged to my dad but he never played - and started picking on that. I was for ever fantasising about being a musician, but at that age it wasn't about money or being a star, but about how much fun being in the

Jackson Five would be.

Most children change from wanting to be a fireman one week to a ball player or a nurse the next, but not me - music was always my focus. It created a tunnel vision and deciding so young was frustrating: school became just something to get through. I wanted to start right away: if Michael is doing it now, why do I have to wait? So when we moved to Los Angeles, (my mother had a big TV show called *The Jeffersons*), I was made to audition for the California Boys Choir - after the Vienna Boys Choir it is the most respected in the world.

Although I'd been quite a precocious five-year-old, listening to Tchaikovsky, which my parents thought was really funny, by 11 I was into Jimmy Hendrix, Kiss and Led Zeppelin - just a little different from classical music! The training programme was very intense but I made the concert choir and started at the top: my first ever concert was at the Hollywood Bowl with the LA Philharmonic - full-on drama! The California Boys Choir really cracked the whip, we all had to dress alike and never run. We were made to walk everywhere - and I mean everywhere. The choir master would yell at us and within seconds we'd have lined up in two rows from tall to small. My life became dominated

by rules. Each year, we'd even live together for a two-month intensive training programme. What's more, we couldn't listen to anything but classical music - the one exception was the Beatles.

I got a taste for touring and recording, but my focus was on getting out! I didn't want to be a classical musician, but I believed that if I hadn't have sung with the choir I wouldn't be here today. I might not even have started at all without that launch pad, not only did I learn a lot about music but also about discipline - which you need to survive in this business.

My mother would have never sent me to the choir if it hadn't have been for Michael Jackson. So it was a strange experience to actually meet him! There was Michael, Prince and myself, all in the same room. We hung out together for a while, but because Michael really liked my hit "It ain't over till it's over" he asked me to sing it. Getting on stage in front of 50,000 is fine, but if Michael asks you to sing a few bars you clam up! That meeting brings my story right round, however I wasn't brave enough to tell him how he got me started.

Ever since I heard Michael Jackson at five, I've been very focused: "Don't get in my way or I'll steamroller right over you." I

wanted my career so bad, I just kept running around, but my mother always tried to pull me back and get me to look at my life as well. Sadly, she passed on and I've needed time to reflect. Eventually you have to deal with what is going on inside. I've got a lot of years to catch up on and I've put a lot on the back burner. Sometimes it gets to a point where I'm numb, but somehow the music has allowed me to express myself. There is a song on my new album dedicated to my mother called "Thinking of you". Music is my saviour but, at other times, a whip beating my back. I need to find a balance.

What am I going to discover in my trunk? Black and white, rich and poor, rock star and the guy that just wants to be at home with his family - there are lots of paradoxes. I have a split personality, this has been something that runs through my life. Even if it is disturbing, I'm looking forward to listening to my spirit and dealing with the pain. We'll see if I can put my two halves together.

Lenny's new single, released yesterday, is "I belong to you". He will be appearing at Britton Academy, London on 7 December.

INTERVIEW BY ANDREW G MARSHALL

Pop goes the writer

As recently as 10 years ago, fiction and pop music kept little company, but since Hornby's *High Fidelity* they've become firm friends. And what's this? Salman Rushdie himself is about to publish a rock epic. By James McNair

This newspaper's literary editor, Boyd Tonkin, recently wrote that "fiction's failure to register the impact of popular music on the post-Elvis generations must rank as one of the strangest dog-that-didn't-bark stories in postwar writing". Be that as it may, the preponderance of novelists currently seeking to redress the balance is striking. Salman Rushdie's forthcoming book, *The Ground Beneath Her Feet*, has been described by insiders as a rock epic partially inspired by U2. American writer Pagan Kennedy's new novel, *The Exes*, documents the rise of an alternative-rock band in Boston; and recent books by Irvine Welsh, Alan Warner and Robert Newman have all featured protagonists with more than a passing interest in their favourite bands. Add to this the fact that Iain Banks recently co-wrote songs for a BBC Radio adaptation of his 1990 novel, *Essex Street*, and you get a sense that pop and fiction are rubbing shoulders with renewed enthusiasm.

I say with "renewed" enthusiasm because that crossover has always been there. If you opt for the broadest definition of "popular music", you could argue that even the way Kerouac drew inspiration from bebop in *On the Road* fits the bill. You might also assert, as Alan Warner does, that the heady brew of sci-fi and hard rock featured in some of Michael Moorcock's Seventies novels never got the critical recognition it deserved. For Nick Hornby - whose own book, *High Fidelity*, is still regarded as one of the "pop novel" genre's milestones - the key work came later.

"I read Roddy Doyle's *The Commitments* when it came out, and it was a big deal for me," he says. "When I was growing up, popular culture was much more important to me than literary culture, so the idea that you could write about music that simply and directly, and still get serious reviews, was incredibly refreshing."

Moorcock and Doyle may have been amongst the trailblazers, but the unique and mutually distinctive ways in which Warner, Hornby and Kennedy have appropriated pop culture mark a further progression. In *Morvern Callar*, admittedly less music-obsessed than *High Fidelity* or *The Exes*, Warner takes a more impressionistic approach. The compilation tapes that the book's spongy heroine listens to on her Walkman allow the author to drop a whole litany of band names without the faintest hint of a clang. The sheer artistry of the book also makes a nonsense of claims that pop culture references have no place in the serious literary work.

"The music on Morvern's tapes is a way for her to maintain contact with her dead boyfriend," Warner explains. "She's using it to get by after his suicide, and also to remind her of things past." There's a stark passage where Morvern decapitates her boyfriend's body wearing tinted swimming goggles and noseclips, her Walkman plugs firmly Sellotaped into her ears as she listens to a specially prepared compilation. It's almost as though she's bandaging her senses.

Like Hornby's *High Fidelity*, Kennedy's *The Exes* uses its characters' pop and rock obsessions as an over-arching framework, while she explores the dynamics of their romantic and platonic relationships. The *Exes* are a band, and their nonstop - the brainchild of guitarist Lilly - alludes to their line-up featuring two pairs of ex-lovers. They're an indie Fleetwood Mac.

While on one level, the book pays homage to the alternative scene in



Clockwise from top left: Pagan Kennedy, Nick Hornby, Salman Rushdie and Alan Warner - taking on the fickle beast, pop culture

Allston, Boston, which Kennedy once immersed herself in, the former fanzine writer is quick to point out that there's more to the book than lip-gloss and sound checks: "I wanted to capture something that's going on socially, and not just in bands," she says. "The fact that most of us of a certain age now have a string of monogamous exes that we have to integrate into our lives is interesting, but I don't see anybody talking about it." She describes *The Exes* - which one critic dubbed "High Infidelity" - as "a perverse take on that issue."

It's Nick Hornby's view that, perhaps fearful of dating their books by mentioning, say, a Smiths album, British writers have generally been slower to make direct references to pop culture than their American counterparts. "In the 1980s, you would be surprised to see the name of a band in a Raymond Carver or Jayne Phillips novel," he says. "And I liked that, because it made me feel that they understood the world in which I was living. Lorrie Moore's *Who Will Run the Frog Hospital?*

came later, but there's a beautiful passage in that where, at a party, someone puts on 'Little Green' by Joni Mitchell and one by one all the women stop talking and drift off. Most people can relate to that."

In *High Fidelity*, Hornby's lead character Rob owns Championship Vinyl, a second-hand record shop. Rob and his employees' fixation with compiling their own tapes and listing charts for ever more ridiculous categories allows Hornby to take cross-referencing to its logical extreme. "When I was writing the book, I remember noticing that lists and charts were becoming part of the culture more and more," he says. When I ask him if he's noticed how those 100-best-albums-of-all-time-type features are still a staple of the music monthlies, he laughs. "A friend who's completely mad on tapes says his ideal magazine would just have lists of good stuff he hasn't heard yet. No journalism - just titles!"

While Hornby's obsessive makes in *High Fidelity* are stereotypes, the male music-bore is a character with

whom most of us are familiar, and some of us may even have recognised in the mirror this morning. Those completists - those characters who must own every Kinks release regardless of its quality - tend to be blokes. Kennedy agrees: "I think males have a tendency to hoard, and that obsessive thing does seem to be gender-linked. I know a bunch of people who I think of as 'the collector guys', and they have to have these huge, warehouse-sized apartments just to house their records. I say, God bless them, though, because if I need to check some obscure song title I know who to call."

Perhaps the most intriguing aspect of the current literature/pop crossover is the extent to which boundaries seem to be blurring. When Alan Warner befriended Joe McAlinden of the Glasgow band Superstar, he opted to write the group into his latest novel, *The Sopranos*, and the book's preface juxtaposes a quote from McAlinden's song "Every Second Hurts" with one from *Wuthering Heights* (and that's Bron-

te's original, not Kate's single). Warner has also done readings at Superstar gigs, and with *The Sopranos* about to be made into a major film, there's talk of Superstar collaborating on the soundtrack.

Kennedy, too, has recently experienced life imitating art: "I asked some musician friends of mine to pretend to be The Exes at this reading I did, and now they've become a band in their own right," she laughs. "There's this bar in Jamaica Plain called the Midway Café, which I mention in the novel, and the weirdest thing was when they called us and asked us to play there. I gave the guy who owns the place the book and he got up and read the appropriate bit." If Kennedy seems to be enjoying all this, perhaps even using it to exercise a few ghosts, it's understandable. At college, she was in a "camp-psychodelic" band called Planet Love.

Irvine Welsh collaborating with Primal Scream, and the hall-of-mirrors effect experienced by Warner and Kennedy might seem like a lec-

ture in post-Modernism's wet dream, but Warner himself is quick to remind us of the legacy. "It's Moorcock again, isn't it? He wrote this amazing limited edition piece in 1980 which based characters on the Sex Pistols and Lemmy from Motörhead, and in 1977 he released an album called *The Deep Fix*, and The Deep Fix were a band featured in his Cornelius Quartet books. That's why the thing of Iain Banks writing songs bores me. Moorcock used that interplay between reality and fiction much more interestingly."

A more appetising prospect, perhaps, is Rushdie's *The Ground Beneath Her Feet*. It will be intriguing to see how a writer of his stature gets to grips with the pop genre, and to see whether this prompts other literary heavyweights to follow suit. *Captain's Corelli's Akai Sampler*, perhaps? A metaphysical take on Czech drum 'n' bass from Milan Kundera? Don't hold your breath.

The Exes by Pagan Kennedy is published by Simon & Schuster

Calm after a storm

CLASSICAL

PHILHARMONIA ORCHESTRA / KURT SANDERLING RFL, LONDON

THE PHILHARMONIA Orchestra have a new "Honorary Member", the first since Otto Klemperer - which is to say that it means something. And yet, what percentage of the public at large will ever have heard of Kurt Sanderling? That's significant. That tells you something about his career, his priorities, his brand of music making. It's never been about him; his way has always been the quiet way. He's 86 now, and has the look - the big handsome face, the thick wavy hair - of an ersatz matinee idol. The walk on the podium may look like it's getting longer, but once in place, once in command of the role he knows best - that of empowering his players - the years visibly fall away.

He seemed literally to stride the tempestuous opening tutti of Brahms' D minor Piano Concerto, a rejuvenated colossus pulling himself up to his full height, swaying with the music's prevailing winds. The force was in his colour - horns stopped down to their elemental low registers, long bows in the strings, substantial tone as opposed to volume. With the pellucid second subject - the still centre, the eye of the storm, if you like - such was the luminosity, the rarified quality of the pianissimo he achieved, it was as if we were somehow now inside the piece, hearing it from the composer's perspective. Pianist András Schiff heard it that way, too. His reading was more about spiritual than physical storm and stress. The great double-trill and double-octave fusillades were never about to subject this Steinway Leary significant seismic distress. Classical constraint and a sense of proportion governed all the theatrics. This was a performance that looked back more than it looked forward. The shining nobility of the adagio (wonderfully at peace with itself) inhabited a world that both Schiff and Sanderling knew well from their Beethoven encounters - a world where the special relationship between keyboard and lower strings, between Schiff's reflective droplets of sound and the near-silence of pedal notes sunk almost too deep to hear, took us to the threshold of romanticism, but not beyond it. Even the finale, bounding back to Bach with more than its customary relish, seemed to meet Beethoven's *Pastoral* Symphony coming the other way.

Sanderling's reading of Beethoven's Second Symphony required more than a little adjustment to ears now attuned to the leaner and meaner machinations of "historically aware" period performances. It's hard going back now to this well-insulated and, by implication, grander sound and manner. Beethoven that is clear, robust, purposeful, characterful (and in that the Philharmonia woodwinds were very much key players here) is always a pleasure. But when two trumpets collide in an explosive dissonance which blows the lid off the first movement coda, you want to know about it from an 18th not 19th century perspective.

The Philharmonia Orchestra is currently in residence at the Royal Festival Hall
EDWARD SECKERSON

mirror image

Jonathan Miller on Reflection

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The boatman's call to party

POP

NICK CAVE AND THE BAD SEEDS
IRVING PLAZA
NEW YORK CITY

NICK CAVE celebrated his 41st birthday last Tuesday night by ending his US tour amid the decaying grandeur of Irving Plaza, a club venue known for its velvet couches and gold-framed mirrors. As the excited Cave faithful queued round the block to claim their vantage points, even the drunk hogging the payphone outside wore a shiny Happy Birthday hat.

The circuitous route by which Americans have come to his Southern Gothic and Delta Blues (Melbourne-Berlin-London-New York) has given the Bad Seeds two strains of fans. The bulk are cleanish, trendyish white kids in their twenties. But there was a sub-group, fittingly impatiently between them, vinyl and crepe covered Goths. Too old and moody for Marilyn Manson, they haven't yet been Gapped and Starbucked and Virgin Megastored out of New York.

There remain some basements in the East Village where they work on their pallor by day before releasing themselves on special nights like this.

Cave came on in his customary three-piece suit and cloud of cigarette smoke and slipped in to "Far From Me", one of the sparsest, slowest tracks on *The Boatman's Call*. His melodramatic baritone, so beautifully buffed up in the studio on that album, now sounded rougher and more vulnerable. Launching into the blustery "Do You Love Me" got the crowd on his side, and he was soon stripped down to his sweat-drenched white shirt,

wagging a presidential finger at the audience.

The cautionary tale, "Red Right Hand", kept everyone moving, and while Mick Harvey's pained solo rose above Bluxa Bargeld's guttural bass, Cave strutted about, always on his toes, springing back and forth like a fighter.

Strangely enough, he carried this teeth-grinding aggression through the ballads as well. The mood songs, "Lime Tree Arbor" and "Brompton Oratory", were slightly rushed as he hovered, hunched and bopped, making him look like Martin Amis impersonating Tricky.

It was clear though, that Nick Cave has more classics than he can fit into a Greatest Hits roadshow. Switching back to bone-crunching blues such as "The Mercy Seat" and "From Her to Eternity", he had the audience singing the chorus. All night, birthday gifts were

passed forward, including a large bouquet of pink lilies, which he shared with Bluxa Bargeld as the party German filled in for Kylie Minogue on the murder ballad "Where The Wild Rose Grows". Always a prickly customer live, the crowd only once tested Cave's cool by singing "Happy Birthday" just as he was about to launch into "Rose". Being 41 years of age and all, he forgave them.

Touring with six (rather good) Seeds is an extravagance that Nick Cave the artist is prepared to finance, and it paid off during the climax of "Stagger Lee", as the percussionist (he in charge of the Faulknerian tubular bells) battered the cymbals with maracas while Bargeld swamped his mike with primal screams.

The crowd stayed well past the house lights to drag the band back for a second encore, an unfamiliar party-poop-



Happy Birthday, Mr Cave

about a woman wearing a plain gold ring. However, the VIP guests upstairs (which included the anti-Goth herself,

model Christy Turlington) mobbed the dressing room for the real birthday party.
JOSEPH GALLIVAN

10/20/98

Calm after a storm

CLASSICAL
THE TUESDAY REVIEW
THE INDEPENDENT 29 SEPTEMBER 1998

Good old-fashioned Modernism

Caio Fonseca's paintings hark back to a tradition of order and rigour. What's more, writes Jay McInerney, they're beautiful

I have a friend who owns hotels. He also owns paintings, which I like to visit. A few years ago I spotted a new one hanging next to the Francis Bacon. It was a lyrical abstraction, too lushly painterly to be contemporary – and too cerebral, I thought, to be New York School. The surface was both flat and luminously translucent, sparsely populated with weird glyphs. "Is that a Klee?" I asked. If the canvas had sported a shred of newsprint or a glued-on Gauloise pack – any irony – I might have guessed early Motherwell. More figurative and I might have said Matisse. My host was pleased to set me straight. "Caio Fonseca," he said.

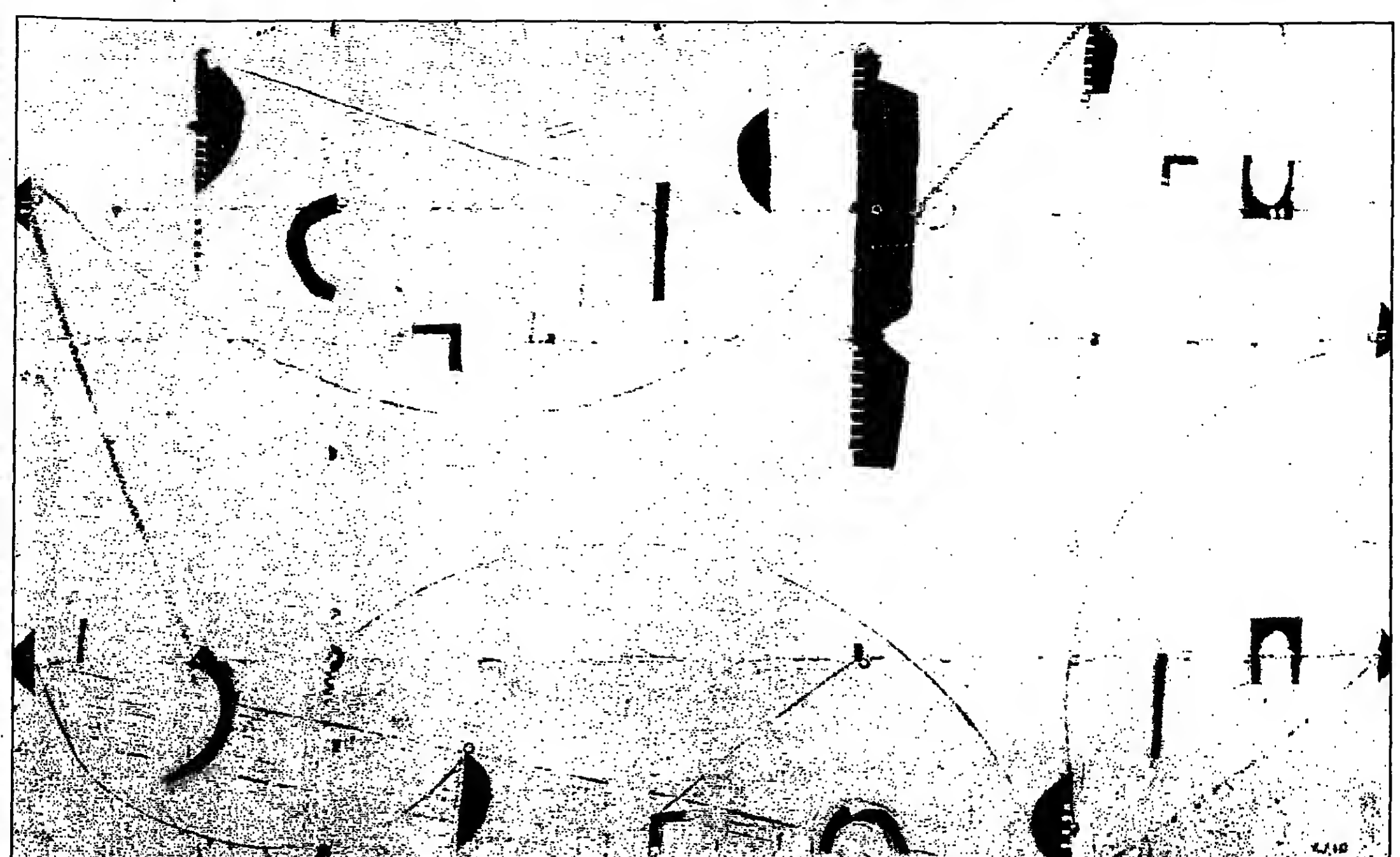
"Dead?" I asked.

"Had dinner with him last night. He's younger than we are."

I knew a very nice girl named Fonseca who was living in London; and I like the port; the painter, I discovered when I met him a year later, is not related to the port house, although the girl, Isabel, author of *Bury me Standing* and paramour of Martin Amis, is his sister. This conversation took place in 1994, not long after the Whitney Biennial had once again declared painting dead, except in so far as it illustrated anti-patriarchal political principals. Matthew Barney's videos and Janine Antoni's conceptual pieces were setting the tone for the downtown galleries. Wandering into Fonseca's one-man show at the Knoedler Gallery in 1996, I wondered if I should feel guilty for liking these self-contained and extraordinarily – how to say it in late 20th-century English? – uh... beautiful canvases. Self-defensively, I wondered if he was kidding. It was possible to imagine this enterprise as an exercise in appropriation. Several critics have done so. Hey kids, here's a pastiche of high Modernism. It could be commentary, as opposed to painting. I mean, I didn't want to be fooled, fear of missing the joke being possibly the most powerful art-related emotion of the 20th century.

Subsequently I met Fonseca at a dinner party, and I would bump into him here and there around town, as one does. He looks a bit like a well-fed Antonio Banderas. And while he often had his tongue in cheek and cut out an entertaining figure at the dinner table, he also had something of the quality of an innocent abroad in the wilds of downtown Manhattan. In fact, when I first met him he had recently returned from Pietrasanta in Tuscany, where he spends five months of the year in ascetic exile in a former sculptor's studio he's owned for 10 years. Like his canvases, he seems both worldly and a little bit naïve; fleshy and ethereal at the same time. His sensibility was decidedly more classical than post-Modern. A big, bearded figure with an unfashionably sunny mien, he was remarkably ignorant of the mores of the downtown art world, to the point that when I said, one night, as we do, that I'd love to visit his studio, he answered: "Yes, you keep saying that every time I see you." Brutal. Apparently they take you at your word in Pietrasanta or whatever planet he came from. At least he was smiling.

When I first arrived in New York in 1979, painting had recently come out of the closet again. After the radical puritanism of Conceptual art and Minimalism lost its novelty, a new generation was reviving the ancient craft of applying paint to canvas, just in time for a booming economy which would create a market for negotiable canvases as well as for the faces that painted them. The most prominent painters of this period seemed to be career-savvy and media-savvy. Andy Warhol being a kind of mentor figure to the scene. I retain these strobing, flashbulb images of the New York art world of that period. Frantic movie premiere-like



Caio Fonseca's 'Tenth Street Painting C97.5', acrylic on canvas, above, and the artist, below, in his studio in Pietrasanta, Italy, where he spends five months of the year in ascetic exile

openings at Mary Boone's gallery. Did I really see Julian Schnabel thumping his barrel chest like Tarzan at a David Salle show? I know I saw Keith Haring spray-painting his body in Annie Liebowitz's loft, and Jean-Michel Basquiat snorting cocaine in the Michael Todd Room of the Palladium, which he helped to decorate. And I definitely saw Keith Haring and Andy Warhol being chased down the street one night by a pack of photographers. For all the differences among the figures of the period, the painting tended to be representational, the expressionism figurative rather than abstract. Later in the decade came the Neo-Geo guys – Jeff Koons and Peter Halley and company, with their inflatable toys and their perfect surfaces, dressed in business suits like characters out of a Robert Longo painting. These guys were kidding, which was the whole point.

Caio Fonseca missed all of these developments in New York; in fact, he says, not ungraciously: "I missed the Eighties entirely." A native son, he grew up in Greenwich Village, the capital of bohemian America; his father, Uruguayan born Gonzalo Fonseca, was a highly regarded painter and sculptor. Caio and his three siblings were raised in a household of art and artists and multilingual dinner parties. "I always asked whether it was a one-kiss, a two-kiss or a three-kiss night – depending on where the guests hailed from."

Just before graffiti moved from the street to the galleries, and painters started appearing on the pages of general interest magazines, Caio left New York for a long *Wanderjahre* in Europe. After a year at Brown University, he went to

Barcelona to study with the painter Augusto Torres, a friend of his father's, serving an old-world-style apprenticeship. For the next 14 years, Fonseca spent most of his time in Europe, painting and visiting museums – moving to Paris and Tuscany after Barcelona, all that time "working through some problems in painting." He moved from life studies, landscape and still life to a style that had become almost purely formal by the time he returned to Manhattan in May of 1992. He bought a loft on Tenth Street, amidst the noisy tenements of the barrio far to the east of the East Village; within a year he had his first show at the Charles Cowles Gallery in SoHo. The show was a quiet hit; the Metropolitan Museum bought one of the canvases. And the reviews were glowing, conveying a general sense of "where the hell did this guy come from?"

Without having planned to arrive in New York with a marketable style, he had developed the manner and the matter which continue to occupy him to this day. These paintings of the early Nineties seem to retain traces of representational imagery and of the vocabulary of Synthetic Cubism – a pair of eyes here, a key-board there. Since 1992, the work has become ever more assured. His latest show at the uptown Knoedler gallery in the spring of 1998 was sold out before a painting was hung; the new work seems at the same time historically charged and sui generis. Not the least of the pleasures of Fonseca's work is that it reveals in the joys of painting without seeming to be nostalgic. It's as if he devoted himself to the study of Modernism and continued the enterprise from the point where others had declared it



dead, skipping the last 40 years or so of art history and the post part entirely, carrying the vocabulary of Picasso and Gris and Klee down to the end of the century as if it were a continuous tradition.

As a novelist, I find myself jealous of the way in which, for all of its suggestiveness, Fonseca's work is about nothing but itself. I'm reminded of Pater's statement that poetry aspires to the condition of music, which I take to mean that wordsmiths can't help yearning for the realm of pure form. As if to guard against associative or representational content, he titles his paintings with a number and their place of origin – either Pietrasanta or Tenth Street. The subject of Fonseca's painting is painting itself, although he's much more comfortable speaking about his work in terms of music. His East Tenth Street studio, which I did finally

visit, is a former carpenter's shop dominated by a grand piano. Canvases in various stages of completion hang on the walls: the first stage is a black and white grid which structures the later painting. "After I lay out the proportions, which are based on the golden section..." He hesitates, dropping the large wooden compass he's been brandishing, then rushes over to the piano and starts playing what he explains is Bach's Suite No 3 in B minor. "The first three notes contain the entire genetic code of what the piece is going to be," he tells me, as he plays. "Bach is the total exploitation of the initial material. And I think I paint like that. After I lay out the proportions, those proportions begin to suggest the form of the piece." He plays a little Mozart to propose a contrast. (And I'm thinking: shit, if this guy writes novels too I'm

going to have to kill him.) "In Mozart," he says, "you have melody and accompaniment; in Bach you don't have that. You have the braiding of melodies." He may be talking Bach but he looks pure Beethoven, tossing his dark mane and throwing his body into the music. I can imagine many visitors reaching for their cheque books at this point. The fact that I feel I am witnessing a not entirely spontaneous performance does not detract from my sense of the validity of the analogy. Fonseca apologises for the rectal, he's aware that it might seem like a bit of schtick; but he's also genuinely excited. "In music," he says, pausing at the keyboard, "you have a rhythm, an underlying order beneath this interplay of spontaneous forms."

Now he's up again, running around the studio, showing me the later stages of composition. Once he's laid down the grid, Fonseca applies a densely layered field of paint. The shapes which seem to float above the surface of the finished painting are actually carved out of this background as another field of colour is applied. "They're not symbols, and they're not representational," he says, "but the shapes have to have a physical vitality." Indeed, some of them seem to move if you watch long enough. The interplay of these shapes is complicated by a series of linkages – usually lines inscribed with tools ranging from a pencil to a pasta cutter. "No one form is interesting to me," he says. "It's the interplay." Play being a useful concept, since for all their formal beauty and balance, the paintings can seem both whimsical and lyrical. One thing he insists that they are not is pictorial. On the other hand, my

wife, who recently ruined our finances buying me one of his paintings, claims that Fonseca told her the painting was inspired by the night sky of Pietrasanta and half a bottle of Chianti. I've had the painting six months and still keep stopping to look at it.

What draws me to Fonseca's painting is the sheer sensual gratification of the work, the almost romantic surfaces; what keeps me coming back, what keeps the work from being merely decorative, is the sense of classical balance and formal rigour. The latter reminds me of Robert Frost's remark that writing poetry without metre and rhyme is like playing tennis with the net down. Fonseca has an old-fashioned sense of innovation being possible only in relation to a clearly defined tradition. Like Frost and the baroque musicians he so admires, he believes in an underlying order. He's unapologetic about having the old-time religion; the high Modern belief. "When you talk to a believer, you can't convince him God doesn't exist. He knows God exists." In the millennial Manhattan art world, it seems that many people want to believe again. Those who aren't ready to convert needn't take the artist at his word. It's quite possible to view the paintings as subtle acts of appropriation, as a clever and ironic commentary on the history of Modernism even as you revel guiltily in the sensual, formal pleasures of the surface.

Caio Fonseca is represented by Knoedler & Co, New York. This article first appeared in the autumn issue of *Modern Painters* magazine. To order a copy direct, for £5 (p&p free), call 0181-985 4854 with Visa/Access card

THE INDEPENDENT COLLECTOR

JOHN WINDSOR'S GUIDE TO COLLECTING CONTEMPORARY ART: SEAN HENRY

MEET EVERYMAN – isolated but coping as best he can. This one is putting his best foot forward, but none of them knows where he is going. All of them are more like you than you dare think.

Sean Henry is their creator. His signature everyman sculpture, a painted and patinated cast bronze wearing a donkey jacket and crumpled trousers, stands his ground and folds his arms across his chest, in a belligerent pose.

The Welsh poet David Hart mingled with everyman in Henry's London studio. The poems they inspired him to write are to be published in November in a book about Henry's work by the Italian Circolo Degli Artisti, shortly before a solo exhibition in Faenza.

Henry, aged 33, is winner of this year's Villiers David Art Prize, worth £8,000 for



'Walking Man', work in progress, Sean Henry

travel abroad. He is the first sculptor to win it. The judging committee of six (including Lord Linley, Noel Annesley, deputy chairman of Christie's International and William Facker, the art critic) observed that everyman, though still going nowhere, has come a long

way. There is an early everyman holding a pistol at arms length. And there is the latest, still in soft clay, seated on a donkey with one arm outstretched, modelled on the early 16th century German sculpture "Christ Riding on a Donkey" by Parmesan.

Henry is undecided how to model the fingers of this one. He flips two of them up into a beatific gesture. Then he flips them down. Whatever he eventually decides, the fingers are unlikely to point the way.

He says: "I try to depict some essential truths. My figures are often on the edge of action – passive, but acutely aware of their surroundings, as well as their inability to affect or change them."

Everyman, and not only Henry's, is becoming more visible in the art world.

Henry's figures are reminiscent of Ray Richardson's paintings of dense, muscular men in T-shirts leading bull terriers on leashes, Peter Howson's threatening male silhouettes and Stephen Courry's paintings of strong men standing stock still on staircases, curling their lip at a world they can barely comprehend. An investigation into their origins would no doubt hit upon Josef Herman's bold monochromes of miners. And, of course, Giacometti's best-foot-forward sculptures.

Henry's show at the Air Gallery last summer was called "Up Against It" – a title that sums up everyman as he perceives him. "He is mass man," he says, "quirky, powerful, but not responsible for his actions."

The irony is that mass man – everyman – is out of

date. You cannot buy donkey jackets as fashion wear, these days. The only men that still wear them are building workers. The folded arms of his "Donkey" everyman, hugging his donkey jacket, are, he explains, "holding on to the past."

"He knows he's foolish," he says, "he knows he's an ass." But "he's on his own, he's got to deal with it."

When Henry delivered one of his 32-inch tall "Donkeys" to its purchaser, a smart London office, he glanced back at him as he left and thought he heard him say: "You're not going to leave me here, are you?"

If Henry's sculptures are to earn a permanent place in art history it will be because of their mythic, iconic status – the image of an endangered species. The mass – the uneducated

working class – has become a threatened minority. Everyman no longer has political clout. He has been reduced to adopting an all-purpose, muscular stance against the outside world.

But, as creatures such as Henry know well, the divine courses through everyman. What sculpture will follow his divine everyman riding upon a donkey? It is a hard act of creation to follow.

Sean Henry has had eight solo shows in the past 10 years and has exhibited in group shows in Britain, Italy, the United States and Australia. Prices: £1,500-£18,000. He is represented by Davies and Tooth, 33 Dover Street, London W1 (0171-409 1516). David Hart's *Setting the Poem to Words* has just been published by Five Seasons Press at £8.50



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HEALTH

How to turn nightmares into sleeping beauties

If your bundle of joy is an unpredictable alarm clock, wrecking any hope of rest, relax: there are ways to teach children to sleep.
By Roger Dobson

It's 11am, and 18-month-old Chloe is sleeping soundly in her father's arms. Father and daughter are the envy of passing parents, battling with noisy, demanding toddlers. But this scene of tranquillity is deceptive. Chloe kept her parents up most of the night, as usual. Every evening for the last year, she has woken up half a dozen times, and it's almost impossible to get her back to sleep.

After more than a year of this disturbance, Chloe's parents are besides themselves from lack of sleep. So much so, that the couple have been referred to a sleep centre for therapy, after their baby was diagnosed as suffering from night waking and settling problems.

According to research presented to a Royal College of Psychiatrists conference at the weekend, as many as a quarter of all children aged under five now have severe sleep problems, which means that they are difficult to get to sleep and that they wake up at least three times a night.

Night waking and settling problems are not only the seeds of potential long-term behavioural problems in the child; they are also a source of anxiety, stress and depression in the rest of the family.

There's also growing evidence that many fraught and despairing parents are getting prescription drugs for children as young as nine months, to help them to go to sleep so that the whole family can get some rest.

We all need sleep: an adult requires an average of seven and half to eight hours, every night. In contrast, a newborn baby will sleep most of the time, waking once every three hours, while a six-month child should be able to sleep most of the night, apart from waking in the early morning for a drink. By nine months, the baby should have established a routine, and at 12 months ought to be sleeping without waking for 10 to 12 hours a night.

But, as Dr Paul Ramchandani and his team say in their research at Oxford, one in four children does not have a sleep routine, and the problem in most cases is that they have never been taught. Sleep is a learnt behaviour, and many parents fail to teach it properly. That failure can lead to years of problems, because once a child has found that he or she can get attention by crying, whatever the time of day or night, the rot has set in.

"Sleep problems are very common in under-fives, but 12 per cent of 12-year-olds also have settling and waking problems, and among those with learning disabilities, it can be as high as 50 to 60 per cent," says Dr Lyn Quine, a reader in health psychology at Kent University.

The rates are also higher among children who suffer from nocturnal asthma, eczema and chronic illnesses, as well as a range of rare disorders involving defects of the central nervous system. These



Sweet dreams are made of this: the secret of getting your child to sleep from an early age

Peter Sherrard/TCL

TIPS FOR A GOOD NIGHT'S REST

- Establish a pre-sleep winding-down ritual of supper, bath time, quiet playtime, and bed, so that the baby gets into a fixed routine.
- Put in a night light if the baby is anxious.
- If the baby cries during the night, check the nappy, or whether a drink is needed, but do it quickly, and don't stop to play, or the child will learn that waking at night can mean fun.
- If that fails, try controlled crying, going back to check on the child at pre-determined intervals. First, let the crying continue for five

minutes before going in to give reassurance. Slowly extend the periods to 10, 20, and 30 minutes.

- Go to bed with the child, but ignore the cries and pretend to be asleep. Next time, try the same tactics sitting on chair by the cot or bed, and on subsequent occasions move the chair nearer to the door, until finally the child goes to sleep when you are not in the room.
- If all else fails, talk to your health visitor or GP.

symptoms can affect the rest of the family, triggering sleep deprivation, anxiety and depression.

It can also affect physical health and performance. "Sleep is essential for our physical and emotional well-being. It can, for example, seriously undermine the functioning of the immune system, making us vulnerable to infection," says Professor William Regeleson of Virginia University, co-author of *The Melatonin Miracle*.

Researchers in San Diego have gone some way to proving the point, by depriving a group of men of sleep between 3am and 7am on one night, the most common period for night waking. They found that the levels of the body's natural defences

against viral infections had fallen significantly when they were measured the following morning.

In the past, many families have muddled through with the sleep problems of their children, but the growing number of working parents has increased the need to find solutions. "A lot of parents do put up with it, partly because they are not aware that there is anything they can do about it. Some try to sort it out, and are then left with feelings of failure. We see a lot of parents coming to the clinics who have tried medication, or who have left their child to cry and not gone back to check on them, but have found that neither has been a solution," says Dr Ramchandani, a specialist registrar in

child psychiatry in Oxford.

He says that antihistamines are the most common drugs given to small children for sleep problems. There is evidence that the sedative diazepam is also being prescribed, although sleeping drugs designed for adults should never be given to children. "Antihistamines are used mainly for treating allergies, but the old-style antihistamines cause sleepiness as a side-effect, and this is used to sedate children with sleep problems," says Dr Ramchandani.

He strongly advises that medication should be considered only for short-term emergency treatment. The treatment of choice is behavioural therapy, where both the child and the parents are re-educated

about sleeping. It involves a variety of tactics, including fixed night-time conventions, the gradual withdrawal of the parent from the bedroom, and rewards for good behaviour.

"In these kinds of cases, the child has found that poor behaviour makes a fuss, gets results – and that's why behaviour techniques are used, and why it works so brilliantly," says Dr Lyn Quine.

"I don't recommend it until after a child reaches 12 months. The therapy involves ignoring bad behaviour, and rewarding good behaviour with social praise and so on. There is also controlled crying, where the child is left for lengthening periods of time.

"We also need to teach children to go to sleep without parents being there. A lot of the problems arise because, if the child wakes up in the night and you are not there, and he is used to you being there, he wants to get the conditions back to when he fell asleep, so he cries until you go back."

One of the tactics is to make the bedroom a happy place that is solely associated with sleep. Having a bedroom which doubles as a playroom, for example, can confuse a small child. But one of the worst strategies is to use the bedroom as a punishment. Those parents who dispatch their child to bed as a form of chastisement will risk many sleepless nights themselves.

The gym where nobody has a handicap

For the disabled, keeping fit is a trial. Now Europe has its first gym that is wheelchair-friendly. By Katrin Levy

GOING TO a gym for the first time can be a nerve-wracking event for anyone. How will you look compared to everyone else? How do you use the equipment? Imagine how much more worrying the experience can be if you're in a wheelchair.

Somewhat surprisingly, it's taken until now to address these problems, with the opening of a unique type of gym, in Stanmore, this month. Launched by Aspire National Training Centre, it's the first gym in Europe to ensure that none of its facilities are off-limits to people with disabilities. All the corridors and doors have been specially designed to be wheelchair-friendly, and the building is full of lifts.

Even the swimming-pool has ramp access, which means that, instead of being unceremoniously hoisted into the pool by which, you can simply wheel yourself down. A quick glance at the classes scheduled shows that aerobics, basketball and rugby are for everyone, wheelchair-bound or not.

"This gym is a perfect example of how every sport can be adapted for any disability," says Lewis Cohen, the health and fitness manager. "We have the same kit you'd find in any gym in the country, but all our machines can be adapted for use by a person in a wheelchair."

The gym is located on the premises of Stanmore Orthopaedic Hospital, and one of its main roles has been to act as a half-way house for people trying to recover from accidents, especially those involving spinal cord injuries.

Val Ford, 64, suffered from polio as a child, which left her unable to use her legs. Despite being wheelchair-bound for six years, last year Val retrained as a fitness instructor, and now works in the weights room. She often finds herself acting as a role model for people who are having problems coming to terms with their physical limitations.

"Some of the people who come here are really traumatised," she explains. "It can be a great shock to be able-bodied one day, then find yourself disabled the next. However, when they see someone in a wheelchair lifting weights along with everyone else, it makes them see that they can do it too."

The gym's membership is a mix of able-bodied and disabled. "Most people here have got used to me, but sometimes, when I have to do the induction for an able-bodied person and teach them how to use the machines, I get a few raised eyebrows," says Val. "There is still a lot of prejudice against disabled people, and some people think that I should be at home in front of the

television instead of helping people to get fit."

Remi Babatunde, 27, was a dancer, until a car accident a couple of years ago left her completely disabled from the chest down. She still finds it very difficult to talk about the huge impact the accident has had on her life, but the gym has clearly been a godsend. "It's depressing really," she says. "A lot of bed rest, and then rehab – but then, a year ago, I started coming here."

Remi now works out five times a week. As she talks, she is in the middle of a half-hour workout on the dual bicycle, using her arms to pedal. "The bike is one of our specialist pieces of equipment to help our disabled members improve their cardiovascular fitness," explains Lewis Cohen. "You can pedal it with your hands, your feet, or both together, depending on how much strength you have in each limb."

Remi is starting to flag a little, but is determined to keep going until she reaches her goal of 30 minutes. "I'm doing it to get fit enough to wear callipers on my legs, but I'm also doing it because I am going to walk again," she says. "The medical establishment doesn't do enough to help people. If I didn't come here, they would probably have left me in a chair, and not encouraged me to do anything. This is the only gym like this in the country – and there should be more. If you're disabled and don't live anywhere near Stanmore, you're lost."

Petros Petrou, 42, has been coming to the gym since the beginning of 1997. His three-hour workouts have earned him the title of "fittest man in the gym". His achievement is all the more astonishing, because Petros has been confined to a wheelchair since 1991, when deposits of fatty tissue around his spinal cord robbed him of the use of his legs.

"When you have a gym where everything is accessible to you, you have no excuse not to exercise," he explains. "I started coming here because I wanted to get fit enough to have callipers attached to my legs which would allow me to stand upright. I built up gradually to more exercises and more reps, and now I can use any piece of equipment here that doesn't require the use of my legs." In the street, Petros is seen by the able-bodied as a man in a wheelchair. In the gym, he is simply one of the regulars. "Coming here has given me a lot more confidence and made me feel much better," he says. "I get a real buzz from it."

The Aspire gym has shown that the biggest problem facing people with disabilities is the attitude of those around them.



Carers Kim and Jo help Sally Rowley

Keith Dobney

HEALTH CHECK



JEREMY LAURANCE

RIVALRY in medicine is no different from that in any other field of human endeavour.

Who remembers the second person to climb Everest or walk on the moon – and who will both to record the second transplant of a human hand? The race to be first involves risk but it is the driving force that brings scientific advance, social progress and, er, research grants.

Except that medical advances involve two people – and it is the patient, not the doctor, who takes the risk. Many men died trying to climb Everest but they were a danger only to themselves. The team that last week

claimed the world's first transplant using a donor hand put their patient, Clint Hallam, a New Zealander, at risk.

The operation was clearly undertaken with his consent, and there is no reason to suppose that the risks were not fully explained to him. Mr Hallam, who lost his right hand in an accident with a chain saw nine years ago, was so keen to acquire a replacement that he had booked a consultation with a team in Kentucky in the US on the very day that he went under the knife in Paris. "We rang his wife in Australia who said: 'He isn't going to meet you – he's got a new hand

now,'" said a miffed US researcher.

It is clear, too, that the international team that undertook the transplant was aware of the risk.

Professor Nadey Hakim, the British transplant expert from St Mary's hospital, London, said after the operation: "You have to dare in medicine or it does not advance." But was the risk justified? Some experts have their doubts. The risk derives not from the complexity of the surgery, which, while not routine, is certainly beyond the experimental stage – dozens of patients have had their own hands reattached after acci-

dents, with varying degrees of success – but from the immune reaction that could be triggered by the foreign limb.

In immunological terms, transplanting a donor hand is much more difficult than transplanting a heart or kidney. The skin is the most antigenic organ in the body – provoking the strongest immune response – and Mr Hallam will have to take powerful immunosuppressant drugs to suppress the body's natural immune response, which will put him at risk of infection by any passing virus or bacterium, including those causing cancer.

In the case of a kidney or heart transplant, calculating the risks is straightforward. Not going ahead means almost certain death. But Mr Hallam and his doctors had to calculate the potential benefits of the new hand – not a vital organ – against the potential disaster of a severe immune reaction. The most serious risk is of graft-versus-host disease – rejection in reverse. Instead of the body rejecting the hand, the hand rejects the body; it could be fatal.

Mr Hallam will need close monitoring over the next weeks and months to ensure that his life is not in danger. Because of

these risks the International Federation of Societies of Surgery of the Hand decided at its meeting in Vancouver earlier this year that a transplant of a donor hand should be carried out only on someone who had already had an organ transplant and was therefore already taking immunosuppressant drugs.

The French team, who are not among those at the forefront of this research, appear to have gone ahead despite this view. And in experiments on animals no donor graft has survived more than a year. I salute Mr Hallam's courage – but I fear for him.

Dr. J. C. 20. 1. 20

Popping pills can cause you real pain

If you've got a headache your first thought may be to take a painkiller, but that could be the worst possible thing to do. By Annabel Ferriman

When Wendy Hill first started taking the painkilling drug ergotamine for her headaches, she noticed that the label on the bottle said that she could not take more than six tablets in a week. "I said to my doctor: 'But there are seven days in a week. I cannot possibly manage a day without one.'"

Ms Hill, a 54-year-old secretary from Oxford, is one of the 2 million people in this country who suffer from daily headaches. Her headaches start at about 2am, and last until about 10pm, leaving her with only four headache-free hours in every day.

Although Wendy's doctor warned her not to take ergotamine too frequently, Ms Hill found herself increasing the dose. Yet her headaches did not improve. If anything they got worse, so, in the hope of improvement, she switched to a different analgesic, a mixture of paracetamol and codeine. She was not meant to take more than eight a day, but sometimes she exceeded that dose.

"I was taking eight a day after day, but because I slept badly, I could not always remember when the 24-hour period began - whether I had counted it from 2am or 8am."

"I would try to average it out. I would let myself take a few more one day, on the grounds that I might not have taken the whole dose the day before."

What Ms Hill did not realise was that, in taking painkillers so frequently, she was in fact making matters worse. She was suffering from a condition that has only recently been recognised by the medical profession, but which seems to be becoming more and more common - analgesia-induced headache.

"There is a tragedy of suffering here," says Dr Peter Goadsby, consultant neurologist at the National Hospital for Neurology and Neurosurgery, Queen's Square, London.

"I routinely see people who are taking eight, 10 or 12 tablets a day. These are people who have an easily preventable condition. But they do not know that they need help."

The condition, also known as "medication-misuse headache", usually starts in a small way, with people taking painkillers to combat frequent headaches.

They then increase the dose, and start taking them as a preventive measure, before a headache oc-

curs. They may take one the night before an important meeting, because they are desperate not to wake up with a headache, and because that day they wake up without one, they think that it has worked.

"They often have packs of pills at home, and at work, and in their briefcases, and everywhere, to ensure that they do not get caught without one," Dr Goadsby adds, describing a scenario that is more often associated with alcoholics and their bottles of booze.

The problem, which affects about one in 50 of the population, then escalates as the high drug doses themselves start to induce headaches. In other words, the painkillers provoke the condition they are supposed to fend off.

"We do not understand the mechanism fully, but taking analgesics too often seems to change the physiology of the brain. It becomes more sensitive to pain and starts to experience pain spontaneously," says Dr Tim Steiner, a consultant clinical physiologist at Charing Cross Hospital, London.

"There are several things that can cause the central nervous system to become more sensitive to painful stimuli. The frequent use of analgesics is one of them," he adds.

The result is that the patient gets into a vicious circle, in which he or she tries to cure headaches by taking more of the substance that is causing them.

"It seems to be becoming an increasing problem, which is why we are taking it very seriously," says Ann Rush, director of the Migraine Trust, a charity set up to help sufferers through its research, education and support programme.

Those most at risk are those people who suffer from frequent headaches, and in particular the 4 per cent of the population who suffer from chronic daily headache (CDH), like Wendy Hill.

"The fact was, I was addicted to ergotamine and, after I came off that drug, I became addicted to paracetamol and codeine," says Ms Hill, who has a grown-up daughter, and a grandchild who also suffers from headaches.

"Eventually, I had to come off paracetamol and codeine entirely for a period, and I now limit myself to taking a pill twice or three times a week. I only take a pill if I feel I really cannot function otherwise."

New government regulations



The pain of headaches may be unbearable, but turning to pills too often can make the condition worse

SAFETY FIRST: HOW TO TACKLE PAIN

Despite the bewildering variety of over-the-counter headache remedies, almost every product contains one of three drugs: paracetamol, ibuprofen or aspirin. Paracetamol is considered the safest because it does not cause irritation to the gastro-intestinal tract or bleeding in the stomach. But remember it is dangerous in overdose. Be aware that you could be taking it in other medicines, such as remedies for colds, flu and blocked sinuses and don't let your dose creep up.

Ibuprofen, a non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drug, is considered the second safest because it has fewer side-effects. Aspirin is the least safe because it can precipitate asthma, kidney failure and bleeding from the stomach. The elderly are particularly prone to its side effects. People with migrainous headaches should avoid cheese, red wine and citrus fruits. If you are taking analgesics more than twice a week, tell your doctor. You could become dependent.

banning the sale of aspirin and paracetamol from general outlets in packs of more than 16, which came into effect this month and which were designed to prevent impulse suicide, may also have the effect of prompting those who are overusing analgesics to seek help.

What can be done to tackle the problem? "These patients have no option but to withdraw," says Dr

Steiner. "You have to spend a lot of time with them explaining what is happening, and warning them that, unless they give up, they will be just the same in 10 years time, or worse off, because of the adverse effects."

Unfortunately, they do not all get better when they stop the analgesics. "If you take 100 people, and stop them overusing analgesics, more than 40 will get completely

better, while another group will have some amelioration, and some won't see any immediate benefit," says Dr Goadsby.

"People who overuse analgesics fall into two groups: those with no underlying headache problem (they get better when the analgesic is stopped), and those who have an underlying headache problem, who don't get better when they stop."

The secret in treating the second group is to get them to take a good headache-preventive drug, such as a tricyclic antidepressant, or an anti-epileptic drug. The patients are not necessarily depressed or having seizures, but seem to find these drugs helpful as preventive measures.

"Regular use of analgesics blocks the useful effect of preventive measures, however, which is why these patients have to stop taking their analgesics before they can see the benefit."

Wendy Hill was given a tricyclic antidepressant to help her to sleep. She breaks the pills up into fragments (otherwise she feels groggy the next day), and takes part of one, if she has not been able to sleep for four or five nights.

The best answer, according to Dr Goadsby, lies in prevention. "If you start taking analgesics more than twice a week, you should put your hand up and tell someone. It is much easier to stop the problem earlier, rather than later."

A QUESTION OF HEALTH



DR FRED KAVALIER

WHY DO contraceptive pills come in packets of 21? The men who invented the contraceptive pill decided women liked seeing a period every month. So they produced a system that induces a bleed every 28 days. Bleeding that occurs when you take the pill is artificially induced by hormones - it is not a true menstrual bleed. The pill could easily have come in packets of 35, which would produce a period every six weeks, or 65, which would cause bleeding every nine weeks.

Some women take three packets consecutively, followed by a one-week break, and this means they get only four periods a year. This system of "tri-cycling" is effective and causes no harm.

MY MOTHER had an underactive thyroid gland and I think I may be developing the same thing. What symptoms should I look out for?

Weight gain, constipation, dry skin, hair loss, feeling cold, puffiness around the eyes, depression, general tiredness and slowing down. But if the thyroid gland is not producing sufficient hormones, it usually begins slowly and insidiously, with vague symptoms of tiredness. Women are affected by hypothyroidism much more than men, and thyroid problems, both underactive and overactive, often run in families. Sadly, most people who are overweight, myself included, do not have underactive thyroid glands.

MY FOUR-month-old son has had a sticky eye since he was born. Can anything be done about it?

Your son has a blocked tear duct, the tiny channel that drains tears away from the eye. It's quite a common problem. The good news is that the duct almost always opens up without any intervention from doctors. Just keep the eye clean with cotton wool and clean water.

HOW MUCH effect does diet have on cholesterol levels? Most people can reduce raised cholesterol levels by up to 10 per cent by cutting down on their intake of fat. Drugs known as statins can reduce cholesterol levels more effectively than dietary changes, with hardly any side-effects. Although cholesterol causes heart disease, it has to be seen as part of a wider picture, including smoking, exercise, blood pressure, obesity and genetic factors.

Please send questions to A Question of Health, The Independent, 1 Canada Square, Canary Wharf, London E14 5DL; fax 0171 293 2182; or e-mail to health@independent.co.uk

In a perfect school, this is what children would learn

LET'S PLAY Fantasy Education Secretaries: you are transmogrified into the Education Secretary David Blunkett and Tony gives you a bank cheque to create the perfect education system, starting from scratch. What existing subject areas, values and teaching methods will you reproduce, and what will be your new ones?

Perhaps you are happy with the current emphasis on exam results as the sole criterion for success, and applaud taking this to the beginning of formal education. You may even endorse "baseline assessments" for all five-year-olds, as Blunkett recently did - but why stop there? Why not begin after birth, with nationwide assessments of neonatal capacities, and annual check-ups of mental development?

Faced with a blank piece of paper, most of us would accept the need to write down (if we can) "teaching the three Rs". The fundamental goal of all education systems must be to provide future citizens with the basic mental and emotional kit to fulfil their potential within

that society. Any British system must teach the three Rs, yet our rates of illiteracy are among the highest in Europe. More than half of all pupils leave school without obtaining three or more GCSEs at grades A-C after their average of 15,000 hours of schooling. These facts suggest that at the bottom end the system is not working, and David Blunkett is quite right to put the matter at the top of his list of priorities.

Where my Fantasy Blueprint differs from Blunkett's is in its overall goals. I suspect that it is more important to him to create high-achieving graduates than to create individuals likely to fulfil their unique potential. Likewise, producing law-abiding, well socialised citizens is more important to him than creating emotionally literate, insightful young people who are likely to have satisfying intimate relationships. With a few exceptions (mostly Scandinavian), government education departments throughout the developed world exist principally to create well programmed, obedient workers.

OLIVER JAMES

BRITAIN ON THE COUCH



Why not begin after birth, with assessments of neonatal capacities?

Since educational success so heavily determines subsequent career options, neither schools nor parents can afford to ignore the imperative to get the good exam results upon which the whole system is judged. This priority of cognitive over emotional skills is found in every aspect of the system.

There are some among New Labour who see the commitment to creating extra nursery school places as an opportunity to improve emotional literacy among parents. A recent publication (*The psychology of nursery education*, edited by AM Sandler, Karnac Books) showed just how this could be done, based on decades of experience at the Anna Freud Centre in London.

But such enlightened thinking faces strong opponents. Nearly all academic and clinical psychologists largely ignore emotions and motivations and focus on thoughts and social skills. Likewise, increasingly ambitious parents and all mainstream politicians are liable to regard small children as computers in search of the right

programme, rather than as existential entities.

By contrast, teachers are often fighting to make education less exam-obsessed and more concerned with emotional well-being. For their pains, they are slagged off by the right-wing press and parents for not trying to extract every last ounce of exam juice from their annual crop. Questioning of exams by teachers is dismissed as an attempt to escape measures of how effective their teaching is.

But what if emotional outcomes were taken into account? Imagine a system in which independent assessment was made of the emotional well-being of children at each year's end. League tables of schools could include rates of mild and severe depression among the pupils, and records of eating disorders, suicide attempts and pupils cautioned or convicted of crimes.

The objection is easy to envisage: surely these have nothing to do with schools, are purely the consequence of genes and parental care? So

they are, to some extent. It would be pernicious to add mental illnesses and criminality to the already lengthening list of ailments for which teachers are held responsible. But the real purpose would be for parents and politicians to be forced to make a proper audit of the real costs and benefits of the present system, by including the emotional price.

It is so hard to imagine such an audit because we completely take for granted that schools are exam factories whose main purpose is to prepare children for the workplace, a rehearsal for the real factories. Although this is barely conceivable, were education really in the best interests of children rather than advanced capitalism, it would prioritise issues that are currently left to chance.

Off the top of my head, here are a few examples of "things they should have taught you at school": beware of marrying young; pure talent is rarely the key to career success - high motivation and low cunning are much more important; lying is an indispensable ele-

ment of both professional and personal relationships; the pursuit of power, wealth and status are prime motivations in most people's lives, despite that achieving them does not bring happiness or fulfilment.

But perhaps it is asking too much to expect government to pay for one of its agencies to expose the double-thinking truth behind the official rhetoric of the rules of adult life - that in many respects, we live in Orwell's Oceania. More realistic might be to hope that every school devotes more time to basic emotional literacy classes. Of the many initiatives in this field, David Blunkett could do worse than turn to a published explanation of the role of personal and social relationships curricula by a retired teacher, Robert McKee (Let's Ask The Children, published by First and Best in Education, Northants).

He struggled against the odds during the Eighties to introduce effective programmes of self-development, but was stymied by the reluctance of schools to give it priority with-

in the timetable - there were too many exams to be passed.

His modest 56-page treatise contains more sense than any government White Paper on education and its implementation would do to moderate the emotional damage caused by existing educational priorities.

The paperback edition of Oliver James's book, *Britain On The Couch - Why We're Unhappier Compared with 1950, Despite Being Richer*, is published by Arrow, price £7.99

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MARIE STOKES HEALTH CLINICS

MEDIA

Sky Wars kick off this week with the launch of Rupert Murdoch's digital television service – but the competition will be tough, so Sky's bosses are welcoming all the digital media friends they can get, and one of them, at least, is a rather surprising choice. By Jane Robins

Liz and Mark's satellite love-in

Mark Booth and Elisabeth Murdoch are on a mission to change the television habits of Britain. The task would be daunting enough for anyone, but these two are American – and if they are to succeed they not only need to understand British culture very quickly, they also need to change it.

Booth is the boss of BSkyB and Murdoch, daughter of Rupert, runs its Sky Networks division. Together they are in the business of persuading us that the age of television as a force of national cohesion is over: that we no longer wish to sit down all together on a Monday night to watch *EastEnders*, and that, instead, we are ready to embrace a world of hundreds of channels. In fact, they want Britain to overtake America as the world's most sophisticated provider of digital television – and "the project" starts this Thursday, with the launch of Sky Digital.

But they have a problem with the Sky brand. A decade ago, the company brought multi-channel television to Britain by selling ugly great satellite dishes door-to-door on housing estates, and delivering television that was cheap and largely poor quality. The consequence has been a strong class division over satellite, with the middle classes still sniffing about dishes. So far, fewer than a third of British homes have gone multi-channel.

Booth and Murdoch are acutely aware that Sky's appeal needs to move out of the council estates, and into the leafy suburbs. The company needs to shed its image as a service for football fanatics, and become attractive to everyone.

It makes sense, then, that both Sky executives have recently taken to praising the BBC, perhaps hoping that some of its blue-chip brand image will rub off – that Sky will gain credibility by association.

Rupert Murdoch's *Sun* may lambast the Beeb, and call for an end to the licence fee. But Sky television, in which he also has a controlling interest, has lately become the Corporation's best friend.

"The BBC's endorsement of digital says to Middle England that this is good," says Booth. "And the BBC is better today than it has ever been. Its sports, comedies and doc-

umentaries are better than ever."

Anyone who buys Sky Digital on 1 October will immediately recognise the status of the BBC on the system. BBC1 and BBC2 are the first two channels on the Electronic Programme Guide, which provides the gateway to the 75 television channels, 48 pay-per-view channels, and 44 audio channels which are up and running already.

Murdoch looks perplexed at the suggestion that Sky might be trying to hijack some of the BBC's brand image for itself. You imagine that she's dying to say "as if", and would do so if the interview were being conducted in California rather than at Sky's HQ in a grim industrial park somewhere off the M4.

"We're very impressed with their

for Manchester United. Would it be better for Sky's brand image if Elisabeth were not so prominently associated with the company? Was her photoshoot for *Tatler* a bid to establish herself as a different sort of Murdoch?

She retreats into the sofa, plainly bored of this sort of question. "I'm my own sort of Murdoch," she says quietly.

But the name alone is enough. It has already fuelled a suggestion that there is something a little sinister about digital television. Once your TV goes interactive, it will record your viewing habits. Rupert Murdoch, the propaganda goes, will be watching you.

Both Booth and Murdoch are quick to dismiss the notion. "We can't

Sky strategy, and that the sums mean that, all the time the subsidised deals bring in new customers, Sky benefits.

But the incident was indicative of the aggression behind Sky's bid to get to first place in the digital war. The company needs to win as many customers as possible, as quickly as it can, before its rivals, ONdigital and the cable companies, come into the market.

This week, Sky will exploit the fact that it is launching its brand of digital first, with a \$50m advertising campaign on television, radio, and posters. Until 15 October, this will aim to get people used to the concept of digital television; then, says Booth, the "features and benefits" offensive will start – detailing the channels and programmes on offer, and the cheapness of the subscription deals.

Last month, the aggressive marketing looked as if it might turn nasty, as ONdigital's boss, Stephen Grahame, accused Booth of saying Sky could finish off ONdigital at birth. A few weeks later, after further animosity, Peter Rogers, the head of the Independent Television Commission, asked the digital bosses to calm down.

Booth now seems to have softened his line. It's "absurd" to think that Sky can kill off ONdigital, he says. And he talks only of the relative attractions the two services are offering – being sure to point out that ONdigital's 30 channels are a mere subset of Sky's 200.

But, back to the question of culture. Will the British want digital at all, or will they resist the pressure of a multi-billion-pound industry to make them change their viewing habits? Booth reaches for two television zappers. One is the old-style all-black analogue zapper; the other the big new Sky digital contraption, with colour-coded buttons and multiple options. Don't you think, he says, that people will want this? That they'll want to show it off to their neighbours?

This is the American attitude coming out. In fact, the elusive middle classes, whom Sky is desperate to attract to their channels, are not prone to boasting about the size of their gadgetry. It's far more likely that they'll sign up to the digital age quietly, and keep the zapper tucked away in a drawer.

Booth reaches for two television zappers. One is the old style all-black analogue zapper, the other the big new Sky digital contraption. 'Don't you think that people will want to show this off to their neighbours?' he says



vision," she says. "It is very genuine."

But her pride at having lured Barry Norman, the veteran film critic, away from the BBC, is evident. She has put his programme in a prime-time slot on Sky1, and he's already securing as many viewers as he was in his late-night programme at the Beeb – around 300,000. The message can be read in one of two ways – either that BBC presenters can help push Sky's image upmarket, or that the BBC is still so far ahead of Sky in quality terms that its late-night cast-offs are Sky's stars.

A second difficulty for the Sky digital team is the widespread hostility to Rupert Murdoch, which was so prominent during the takeover bid

get the ratings system to work, let alone spy," says Liz. "The computer chip really destroyed the idea that you can control information," says Mark. "It's the inverse of reality," adds Liz.

The immediate reality, anyhow, is not about spying: it's about money. Many hundreds of millions of pounds have been spent by Sky on the infrastructure for digital, and on subsidising set-top boxes and cheap subscription deals.

A few weeks ago, facing City analysts, Booth said he didn't mind spending a ton of cash, because it would deliver a ton of subscribers, and the share price tumbled. He says he has no regrets about the statement, and maintains that the City was simply slow to understand the



Sky supreme, Elisabeth Murdoch, and (above left) Mark Booth, boss of BSkyB Glynn Griffiths

Service and sacrifices in Birt's brave new world

ANALYSIS

IAN RICHARDSON

YOU HAVE got to hand it to Sir John Birt. He knows exactly when to strike: just when everyone least expects it, and just when they can do little or nothing about it.

Last week, he ousted Sam Younger, the managing director of the World Service, in a classic move. It was presented as an amicable decision by Younger, and yet everyone knew he had been pushed aside by the BBC top brass. Maximum secrecy was in evidence, a replacement lined up, the corporate press managers were ready to spring into action with the approved spin.

The publication of *Ariel*, the staff magazine, was delayed for several hours until the deed was done, and another story, the appointment of Matthew Bannister as new head of BBC Production, was timed to draw away much of the attention.

Sir John is a man with an engineer's obsession for tidiness and order, and the World Service is not that sort of organisation; it is full of eccentric, extraordinary minds with a will of their own.

John Tusa, Sam Younger's high-profile predecessor at Bush House, regarded Birt with ill-concealed contempt, and when he was plain John Birt, Deputy Director-General, Tusa gave him a "hands off Bush House" warning that has never been forgotten or forgiven.

Sam Younger, through no fault of his own, is a victim of both the Birt-Tusa feud, and Birt's obsession with tidy structures.

In the aftermath of the shock restructuring of World Service, in June 1996, Younger was publicly assailed by Tusa, and many World Ser-

vice staffers, for failing to resign on a matter of principle.

Younger had not been consulted about the changes, nor even told about them until the very last moment, and it is a widely held and plausible view that Birt banked on Younger falling on his sword, allowing him to be immediately replaced by someone more in the DG's own image.

A kindly and approachable manager, Younger stayed on and worked diligently to make the restructuring work, and managing to repair much of the damage done to relations with

his staff. He demonstrated his modernising credentials by overseeing the recently announced rebranding of the World Service, and proposals for a new and current affairs channel, World Service Two.

If there were any criticism of him, it was that he needed to be tougher. And at the Corporate Centre, his attempts to convey the unique spirit of World Service fell on unsympathetic ears. We can, therefore, assume that this failure to demonstrate the required toughness, and to wholeheartedly embrace the Birt Philosophy, was ultimately his undoing. To survive as a Birt lieutenant, it is necessary to be, and to be seen to be, a true believer.

Younger's successor, Mark Byford, 40, is by all accounts, a talented broadcast manager – described by

some as the acceptable face of Birtism – but challenging times lie ahead. He has arrived from his job as director of English regional broadcasting to discover that his ousted predecessor has already left the BBC press release declared, "leaving the BBC towards the end of the year". He also finds himself in the midst of a group of shocked and demoralised journalists and broadcasters from all points of the globe.

Among other things, Byford inherits an explosive issue: plans to reduce the number of foreign language services – there are currently 43 – to fund other aspects of the World Service operation.

To the majority of the 2,500 staff in Bush House, the BBC is not any old broadcaster. It is a shining light in a dark world, to be nurtured and loved. They cannot understand why something that even Lady Thatcher admired as a national asset should be so relentlessly hammered from within.

No sensible person would deny that, in the days when the BBC World Service was known as External Services, it was a competent, often arrogant, organisation.

It, and the rest of the BBC, probably needed Birt, or a Birt-like figure, to rattle the cages – but five years of this would have been more than enough.

Ian Richardson is a former senior journalist and manager with BBC World Service radio and television. He now runs Richardson Media, writing and lecturing on media-related issues



Birt, left, timed Bannister's new appointment well



THE WORD ON THE STREET

THE RACE to be next director general of the BBC is hotting up. It emerges that the chairman, Sir Christopher Bland, would like to appoint someone by next June to ensure a smooth takeover when Sir John Birt steps down in 2000.

Step forward young Matthew Bannister, last week elevated to head of BBC production, the top job in television. Sir Christopher has made it known that he sees Mr Bannister's appointment as part of the management structure that will take the BBC into the new millennium.

Channel 4's Michael Jackson may be the stronger candidate, but Mr Bannister is bagging the inside lane.



says – and Mr Hutton, above, has been a very positive force for the paper. The bottom line is that Mr Hutton stays as editor-in-chief but must feel somewhat uncomfortable on the newsroom floor knowing that the staff resent his presence.

ADVERTISING EXECUTIVES, it turns out, are just too funny for ordinary people. At least, their humour is often above the heads of their female audiences.

New research by ad agency J Walter Thompson shows that women love the simple humour of Gary Lineker refusing to share his Walkers crisps with schoolboys, but they are perplexed by a Salon Selectives shampoo ad which parodies traditional shampoo commercials.

"The women took it literally," says an insider, "they didn't realise that the absurd big hair was a joke."

UNION EFFORTS to blame last week's mass redundancies at *The Observer* on former editor, the brainbox Will Hutton, are not being accepted gratefully by his replacement, Roger Alton. Pinning the responsibility on one individual is most unfair, he

offspring "if someone on TV tells you they're your friend, or they want to know everything about you because they like you, or they missed you the other day when you didn't watch the show – you tell me. They shouldn't say things like that." It's a whole new variation on "don't talk to strangers".

ADVERTISING agencies say they are somewhat unimpressed by the first wave of promotion for digital television. "By selling the technology, the BBC and others are selling something they don't need to sell," says Simon Parker of STS research.

"People don't want to know about the technology, they only need to know what's on it. It's a bit like when microwaves were launched. They were sold on the basis that you could cook a five course meal in 20 minutes, but no one ever used them for that." Quite.

ARE THE Barclay brothers genuinely trying to sell the troubled *European* newspaper, or do they just want to close it down? Staff last week were struggling to make sense of their situation after a sale to Time Warner collapsed, and wondered whether they should just give up. In the end they decided to put the paper out, spurred on by editor, and former MP, Gerry Malone. "Malone scored his first brownie points with staff since he's been here," says an insider. "He was at least around during the redundancy announcements." Unlike editor-in-chief Andrew Neil who was nowhere to be seen.

09/10/98

Tarzan: the sequel

You can't keep a good man down for long, and Michael Heseltine is now applying his brand of energy to the world of publishing. By Ed Shelton

Michael Heseltine is not a man to embrace retirement or idleness with a happy heart. So when his political career came to an abrupt halt with the 1997 election, he immediately turned his energies to his publishing company, Haymarket.

Now, deeply ensconced in business, the lion is roaring again. The departure of four Haymarket Publishing executives last week, on a New York-bound Jumbojet, provides a clue as to what Heseltine is planning. The four are off to start a US edition of the company's trade paper, *PR Week*.

The US venture coincides with the launch of a new fortnightly Haymarket title covering IT training, a spectacular 30th birthday edition of the flagship title *Campaign*, and city gossip of imminent acquisitions in the Far East. With Heseltine himself back in charge, it is hardly the same Haymarket that has for years cultivated a position as the sleepest, though highly profitable, specialist publisher in town.

Michael Heseltine faced a choice after losing office last year – stay active in politics, take a handful of company directorships, or return to the company that has been the basis of

his fortune. He opted for the latter and has, by all accounts, thrown himself into it with a vengeance.

"He is here nearly every day, and is very ambitious for the company," says one of his senior colleagues. "It's all go, go, go," says another. "He is totally leading the charge."

Heseltine says he opted to rejoin Haymarket simply because of his ownership of it: "There is no point working for someone else if you already have a large shareholding in your own company." He seems genuinely excited by the opportunity to advance the company further.

Haymarket's original success was built largely on producing trade titles that looked as swish as the best consumer ones, and pioneering the recruitment advertising market. There was even some critical success: in the Sixties, the company produced the men's consumer title *Turn*, which many believe was ahead of its time, with its focus on male fashion.

But with Heseltine away in the Eighties, the company was less dynamic and, although a profitable stable of 40 titles was developed, there was none of the same pioneering zeal. Colleagues say Heseltine now appears determined to return it to its former pre-eminence.



Industry insiders say that Michael Heseltine's hands-on leadership at Haymarket Publishing is revitalising the company

Geraint Lewis

One well-placed colleague says Heseltine wants to "double the size of the company in 10 years". Heseltine does not deny the claim, saying that it is "realistic", and accepting that he is "very ambitious" for the company.

He did not waste much time on his arrival. There was a reorganisation that saw the departure of the chief executive, Paul Camp, and the recruitment of an ex-colleague of Heseltine's from Whitehall, Alan Kemp, as business development director. Heseltine also bought more shares from his fellow directors,

taking his family holding to 78 per cent of the company. He is now a hands-on member of the team, liaising with editors and developing ideas. Nicholas Coleridge, managing director at Condé Nast, says: "I think he really relishes being back in publishing, and seems to be very well informed. The editors like to have him around, as he brings a real buccaneering dash to the company."

The New York move is his first major one – and a brave one. Haymarket's research suggests that there is a niche in the US market for *PR Week* – and the company has

staked more than a million pounds on its belief. The Far East market is also being explored, with some reports of Heseltine being interested in investing in China. He will not be drawn on such matters, but says, broadly, that there are opportunities in the Far East to copy the success that the company has had here – by producing high-quality, specialist publications.

Heseltine says he will not float Haymarket, and so must keep generating profits to finance further borrowing in order to expand. "We are negotiating in a range of fields to

build on the strengths we have got," he says.

The company is considering UK launches for new titles in each of the four divisions: consumer, business, medical and marketing. Kemp expects the company to invest "several millions" a year in launches: "A much faster rate than in the past". He also adds that there will also be expansion on to the Internet and into digital TV.

Haymarket is already worth an estimated £300m, so neither Heseltine nor his family need ever be short of cash. Some have asked what is the

point of working so hard, and perhaps risking his health, to add more millions to the value of the company. His colleagues think it unlikely that he is simply fattening it up to sell it.

The accepted theory seems to be that Heseltine wants to make his mark in publishing, in the way that he did in politics. "He is a showman, and he wants to go out in a blaze of glory," says an insider.

It is also, of course, worth noting that his son, Rupert, is one of the four executives on the plane to New York: the idea of starting a media dynasty may appeal.

Blonde ambition

Mariella Frostrup has not only got her own prime time show on Channel 5 but intends to call all the shots. By Darius Sanai

SHE IS deep-voiced, bold and occasionally bitchy, and she wants to publicise herself. So, three months ago, Mariella Frostrup formed her own production company, and, because names are a vital part of a brand's image, she called it Brazen Husky.

It was a smart move from a woman whose intelligence and guile have always sat uncomfortably with efforts by the tabloid press to categorise her as yet another, interchangeable, Met Bar blonde.

Ms Frostrup has, over the past few months, been in the news for an alleged romance with Chris Evans (false, say both sides), for being among the candidates to succeed Barry Norman on the BBC's *Film 98* (still a possibility), and for being chosen to front a new Channel 5 talk show at prime time, 7.30 on a Friday evening – a big change from her last, Sunday-morning-with-hangover slot.

Almost overlooked, though, is Brazen Husky (chief executive and sole employee: M Frostrup), a machine through which she will be able to create and control her own brand.

At a time when television channels are proliferating and budgets on the big four are constricting, industry insiders agree that the importance of creating a coherent, saleable brand for yourself is becoming increasingly vital. "Look at the brands people like Noel Edmonds, Des Lynam and Chris Evans have built for themselves," says Mark Borowski, a celebrity PR. "You know what you get with those names. You have to look at what you have, build on it, and recognise your weaknesses."

to start getting credit – or the blame, whatever."

Ms Frostrup refuses to identify her brand image – "It would mean thinking about myself for more than a minute, which I couldn't bear," she says, stalking to the kitchenette in search of another cigarette.

Soon, though, she does define herself, by default. "I've never been a bubbly blonde, I'm really bad-tempered," she says. "Women on TV are seen as interchangeable, whether they're newscasters, presenters or entertainment. And if you're blonde (which she isn't, quite: more mousey, as she's the first to admit) you get lumped together: a herd of cattle, a flock of sheep, a bunch of blondes. I think that's the word for it: a hunch."

And that is, partly, where the production company comes in. "There comes a point when you just want to control your own life. And people are less likely to come to you with a proposal for some sort of nonsensical drive if you're known to be in charge of writing and producing your own programmes."

"You have so much more control over what you do, from the guests down to the sofa fabric in the studio."

As a former bubbly blonde who has fought hard to be recognised for what she is – an intelligent and refreshingly natural TV presenter who happens to be an attractive woman – she is wary of anything to do with tabloid television. The plethora of new channels may give opportunities to people wanting to break in to the industry, "but unless you want to present a show for £2.50, it's not something to do".

There is one proviso about the Mariella brand, though: asked if she would be where she is today if she didn't have a nice face, she replies instantly: "No. If I didn't have a nice face I would be respected but unemployed. That's an indictment of the sexism in the system."



Mariella Frostrup, busy building her own brand Emma Boom

managed to get complete control. "I'd never have chosen that name," she says with a genuine cringe. "I'm not the point of the show, the guests are."

Which points to an inherent contradiction in personality branding. Ms Frostrup says she sees herself as a journalist, a conduit between guest and viewer, her own experience (she left school at 15 and her intelligence is of the streetwise kind) lending her a populist touch. But to succeed she has to be the point of the show, to prove to the

powers paying her that the Mariella brand is both unique and essential, or else they could get someone else to do her job.

A publicist asked to "brand" Ms Frostrup once called her "the thinking man's crumpet" – which can describe anyone from Anna Ford to Francesca Annis. If Ms Frostrup succeeds in intelligently bringing the likes of Damien Hirst and Gilbert and George to the attention of people who would otherwise only have read about them to the tabloids – then she'll be a rare brand indeed.

Doom, gloom and the mundane qualities of life sell as a recession looms. By Harriet Green

Welcome to the glum world of advertising

YOU WON'T laugh and nor will you fancy the actors. No, you won't do either of those things if you watch the new advertisements for Pearl insurance, but you may feel deep depression coming on.

In one advertisement, an overweight woman with bags under her eyes asks her father: "Do you want to be buried or cremated?" In another, a man whose wife has left him is warned by his teenage daughter that "the kiddy is almost empty". And in a third, a boy tells his mother that she should marry her rich boyfriend. The reason? He needs the cash to go to college.

Each advertisement ends with at least one of the characters gazing – horrified – into the distance. And that's presumably what the viewers at home are doing, too.

But Pearl is not alone. Plenty of other advertisements these days feature hapless characters with a miserable future. Death – if not in fact present in all the glum ads – looms large. It all fits neatly alongside the increasingly gloomy newspaper and television forecasts of imminent recession.

Virginia Valentine, head of cultural analysts Semiotic Solutions, believes the trend towards gloom represents a backlash against last summer's rosy glow of New Labour and the cult of Diana which gripped the country soon after it. "We started thinking about ourselves as warm and loving, and being in touch with our feelings. But now there's a cold, hard edge of cynicism coming out."

But hang on. Even if that's true, shouldn't advertising steer clear of doom? Commercials aren't the same as editorial and they should keep us entertained – shouldn't they? Not according to the men behind Pearl's campaign. "Advertising doesn't have any duty other than to put the client's case in the most effective way," says Rupert Howell, of Pearl's advertising agency Howell Henry Chaldecott Lury. It does not have to cheer them up in bad times.

His partner Chris Satterthwaite expands: "Recession is bound to

have an impact on the way people look at the world." But the ads are "not more gritty than life itself", he adds.

Adverts for Sony Playstation provide another startling example of the glum approach. One kicks off with a shot of a scrawny, malnourished youth going to work. "In the day I do my job," he says, the corners of his mouth turned down. But at night, he reveals, his world changes – and at this point, we see him lying on a bed in his underpants – because at night he can happily play computer games.

Other characters in the Playstation ads include a fat man surrounded by takeaway cartons, two small-time crooks and a glum transvestite. In each case, the only thing that makes life worth living is the Sony Playstation. "At least I can say I have lived," proclaims the scrawny youth.

The advertisements were masterminded by one of advertising's most famous creatives, Trevor Beattie of TBWA – the man who shot to fame with an altogether jollier campaign, the "Hello boys" poster for Wonderbra. Why has he turned so miserable?

"Our ad is about the mundane quality of everyday life," he says. You can escape from that with Playstation. If we had shown a glamorous life there would have been no need

to escape from it. Life can be dull." Volkswagen, too, has subscribed to the gloom, with stark press advertisements featuring dissatisfied women whose only security in life is their VW Golf. Their mood is sombre – the weather is terrible, the women are far from glamorous.

"American gloss is wearing a bit thin. It's a backlash," says Ed Edwards of BMP DDB, the agency behind the VW ads. "Look at the television documentaries about traffic wardens or the Lakeside shopping centre. That's what viewers want – real people."

And the trend seems set to continue. Levi's turned its back on a decade of glamorous advertising last month to produce an advert in which Kevin the hamster keeled over, dead.

But it can't go on for ever. Sue Keane, a cultural psychologist, reckons that adverts are bound to brighten up sooner or later: "If we move into recession advertisers will have to switch to a more optimistic approach. In deep recession brands have to provide a constant ray of sunlight, or people will trade down to own labels which are cheaper."

So if glamour has disappeared from our screens, you can be sure it will return when real life becomes too depressing. Now there's something to cheer you up.



The message in the Pearl ads is pure glum

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NEW FILMS

CUBE (15)

Director: Vincenzo Natali
Starring: Maurice Dean Wint, David Hewlett, Nicole de Boer
This Canadian science-fiction thriller takes an ingenious idea - a group of strangers trapped within a gigantic booby-trapped cube try to figure out their escape route and the meaning of their existence - but reduces the intellectual possibilities to the condescending level of a GCSE study guide.
West End: ABC Panton Street, Odeon Kensington, Odeon Swiss Cottage, Plaza

DEEP RISING (15)

Director: Stephen Sommers
Starring: Treat Williams, Famke Janssen, Jason Flemyng, Anthony Heald
Ramshackle B-movie-style thriller about a cruise liner attacked by a mysterious and savage underwater monster. Treat Williams copes manfully with the abysmal dialogue, and our own Jason Flemyng gets to fire automatic weapons at big slimy beasts, which is not the sort of thing that an English actor gets to do every day of the week.
West End: Odeon West End

SECRET DEFENSE (PG)

Director: Jacques Rivette
Starring: Sandrine Bonnaire, Jerzy Radziewicz, Gregoire Colin (subtitles)
The first 90 minutes of Rivette's icy, elegant new film are brilliant and hypnotic: Sylvie (the transiting Sandrine Bonnaire) is a scientist whose brother sneaks into her laboratory to steal her gun and reveal some devastating news - he knows who killed their father. Sylvie tries to prevent him from taking action, but is snaggled by the friction between her indecision, and her inclination for revenge. Rivette's camera doesn't miss a thing - the film's most impressive sequence comes when it simply follows Sylvie on a train journey, recording every detail in an attempt to amplify her feelings of awkwardness. The downside of the director's watchfulness is that any exposition which surfaces during the action feels

clumsy; dialogue which is needed to clarify motivation or relationships is mechanical.
West End: Renoir

THERE'S SOMETHING ABOUT MARY (15)

Director: Peter & Bobby Farrelly
Starring: Cameron Diaz, Ben Stiller, Matt Dillon, Lee Evans, Chris Elliott
There's Something About Mary is the new comedy from the pathologically tasteless writer-director team of Peter and Bobby Farrelly. But it's not the movie's steady trickle of off-colour gags that is outrageous so much as the fact that most of them have already been revealed months in advance by the picture's trailer.

Ben Stiller is heartbreaking as the nerdy Ted, who ruins his big Prom Night date with the local beauty, Mary (Cameron Diaz), when he has an ugly accident with his zipper. Flash forward 13 years, and Ted's life is in limbo because he can't get over his former near-date.
West End: ABC Tottenham Court Road, Clapham Picture House, Elephant & Castle Cinema, Hammersmith Virgin, Notting Hill Coronet, Odeon Camden Town, Odeon Kensington, Odeon Leicester Square, Odeon Marble Arch, Odeon Swiss Cottage, Ritzy Cinema, Screen on Baker Street, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Chelsea, Virgin Fulham Road

WOO (15)

Director: Daisy VS Mayer
Starring: Jada Pinkett Smith, Tommy Davidson, Duane Martin
Jada Pinkett Smith and executive producer John Singleton (who directed *Boyz n the Hood*) are only two of the talents wasted in this witless comedy. What plot there is revolves around the love life of a woman named Woo (Pinkett Smith), and the efforts of various suitors to bed her. The jokes and skits will prompt only embarrassed silences, but, more despairingly, the film evidently couldn't care less about its characters.
West End: Ritzy Cinema, Virgin Trocadero

Ryan Gilbey

GENERAL RELEASE

ARMAGEDDON (12)

This deeply stupid film purports to be a tender love story, a meaty action adventure and a global disaster movie in which a meteor is on a collision course with Earth. Its jumble of styles will end up pleasing no one. West End: Odeon Marble Arch, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Trocadero, Warner Village West End

BABYMOOTHER (15)

An endearing reggae musical which takes an old idea and douses it in gaudy colours. The film focuses on Anita (Anjela Lauren Smith), a "baby-mother" who longs to be a reggae star but is hampered by her responsibility to her son and daughter. West End: Ritzy Cinema

LE BOSSU (15)

Sumptuous swashbucklers are fast becoming French cinema's stock-in-trade. This effort doesn't break much new ground but is acted and shot with such magnificent braggadocio that its lack of originality is never a problem. West End: ABC Swiss Centre, Curzon Minima, Phoenix Cinema

CHARACTER (KARAKTER) (15)

Mike Van Diem's intelligent but uneven drama about betrayal won this year's Oscar for Best Foreign Language film. It certainly comes equipped with what the Academy adores, but the picture is never as gripping as it should have been. West End: Curzon Mayfair

COUSIN BETTE (15)

Balzac's novel about romance and deception in 19th-century France is the basis for this shallow but breezy comedy. West End: Odeon Mezzanine

THE DOOM GENERATION (18)

Gregg Araki continues his investigation of apocalyptic modern America with this gory, tongue-in-cheek road movie about a couple who hit the road with a psychotic friend. Run for the first half-hour; deadening for the rest. West End: ABC Piccadilly

DR DOLITTLE (PG)

The thought of Eddie Murphy functioning within the restrictions of a PG certificate may not be a promising one but *Dr Dolittle* proves that his talents are surprisingly pliable. West End: Hammersmith Virgin, Odeon Kensington, Odeon Marble Arch, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Chelsea, Warner Village West End

THE HORSE WHISPERER (PG)

Robert Redford's film of Nicholas Evans's novel is a textbook lesson in the narcissistic allure of cinema. Redford plays a Montana farmer who specialises in equine psychology and agrees to help a New York magazine editor, Kristin Scott Thomas, whose daughter has been traumatised in a riding accident. West End: ABC Shaftesbury Avenue, Odeon Kensington, Odeon Marble Arch, Odeon Mezzanine, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Fulham Road

KISSING A FOOL (15)

Yet another comedy about the male fear of commitment and yet another film with nothing original to say on the matter. Stars David Schwimmer, best known as Ross in *Friends*. West End: Virgin Trocadero

THE LAND GIRLS (12)

Rachel Weiss, Catherine McCormack and Anna Friel are the "land girls" called upon in WWII to pick up the discarded ploughs and take the place of the farmers who have departed for war. Nothing surprising here, but very nicely done. West End: Virgin Haymarket, Warner Village West End

THE LAST DAYS OF DISCO (15)

This cerebral portrait of a sensual situation - the club scene of the early 1980s - is dry and a little sad. Chloe Sevigny, who has the look of a wounded animal, is especially good. West End: ABC Baker Street, ABC Panton Street, Odeon Camden Town, Odeon Kensington, Ritzy Cinema, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Fulham Road, Virgin Haymarket, Warner Village West End

LETHAL WEAPON 4 (15)

The latest instalment of the ingratiating comedy-thriller series. This time, Detectives Riggs (Mel

Gibson) and Murtaugh (Danny Glover) are up against the Triads in the counterfeiting trade, but a more pressing issue is their own middle-age. A largely joyless, automated ride. West End: ABC Baker Street, ABC Tottenham Court Road, Clapham Picture House, Elephant & Castle Cinema, Hammersmith Virgin, Odeon Camden Town, Odeon Kensington, Odeon Marble Arch, Odeon Swiss Cottage, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Chelsea, Virgin Fulham Road, Virgin Trocadero, Warner Village West End

LOCK, STOCK & TWO SMOKING BARRELS (18)

Guy Ritchie's film follows the lead of Quentin Tarantino, but its defining characteristic is a resilient morality. The picture is peopled by thugs, both amateur and professional. Young Eddy, who comes unstuck in a high-stakes card game, falls into the former category; but Hatchet Harry, to whom he owes \$500,000, is a dangerous old-school pro. West End: Gate Notting Hill, Hammersmith Virgin, Odeon Camden Town, Odeon Kensington, Odeon Marble Arch, Odeon Swiss Cottage, Plaza, Ritzy Cinema, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Chelsea, Virgin Trocadero, Warner Village West End

LOVE IS THE DEVIL (18)

Derek Jacobi gives a ferocious performance as Francis Bacon in this first feature from the acclaimed and adventurous experimental filmmaker John Maybury. Among the film's many technical accomplishments are the blurred, twisted and grotesque visual compositions which transform simple images into thrashing flesh storms that strongly evoke the artist's work. West End: Barbican Screen, Chelsea Cinema, Gate Notting Hill, Metro, Phoenix Cinema, Renoir, Richmond Filmhouse, Ritzy Cinema, Screen on the Hill

THE MAGIC SWORD: QUEST FOR CAMELOT (U)

The first full-length product of Warner's new animation division, this Arthurian adventure looks - and, courtesy of the inevitable Celine Dion, sounds - even cheesier than the average Disney effort. But beneath the surface there's an edge of genuine weirdness that will keep parents entertained, if it doesn't frighten the children out of their wits. West End: UCI Whiteleys, Warner Village West End

SAVING PRIVATE RYAN (15)

In Steven Spielberg's World War II drama, Captain John Miller (Tom Hanks) is dispatched with his squad on a compassionate mission to seek out a young private behind enemy lines and return him home to safety. It is unlikely that many viewers will emerge from the picture warmed by emotional catharsis - it is the harsh, devastating battle sequences that are branded on the memory. West End: ABC Tottenham Court Road, Barbican Screen, Clapham Picture House, Elephant & Castle Cinema, Empire Leicester Square, Hammersmith Virgin, Odeon Camden Town, Odeon Kensington, Odeon Marble Arch, Odeon Swiss Cottage, Plaza, Ritzy Cinema, Screen on Baker Street, Screen on the Green, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Chelsea, Virgin Fulham Road, Virgin Trocadero

THE SPANISH PRISONER (PG)

In David Mamet's intricate thriller, Joe Ross (Campbell Scott) develops a top-secret formula. His boss (Ben Gazzara) is demanding his signature to secure loyalty, but an enigmatic new acquaintance (Steve Martin) warns Joe that he is about to be swindled. Who should he trust? This is a playful exercise in twisting plausibility, and expectations, until they seize up. West End: Odeon Swiss Cottage, Virgin Fulham Road, Virgin Haymarket, Warner Village West End

THE X-FILES (15)

David Duchovny and Gillian Anderson reprise their roles as FBI agents Mulder and Scully in their first big-screen outing, involving a shiftier secret government and a deadly virus from outer space. Duchovny and Anderson are most engaging; through little dialogue and even less facial movement they manage to convey great tenderness. West End: Odeon West End, Virgin Trocadero

THE INDEPENDENT RECOMMENDS



Film Ryan Gilbey

DARYL ZERO is the world's greatest private investigator - a man who can tell you what you had for breakfast and tease out your darkest secrets within minutes of meeting you. Unfortunately, he is also a recluse, who only engages with the real world when there's a case to crack. As played by Bill Pullman (left) in *Zero Effect*, Daryl is as charming as he is unbending; you catch his speed-freak eyes twinkling and his mouth contorting into a lopsided smile and you know that the monster inside him is only a breath away from combusting.
ABC Swiss Centre, London WC2 (0870 902 0403) 6.10pm, 8.40pm
Whatever you think of *Apocalypse Now*, it has to be experienced in a cinema before you can truly pass judgement. Coppola's bombastic, excessive, even insane excursion into "heart of darkness" territory boasts a karmic cast (Martin Sheen, Frederic Forrest, Robert Duval, Marlon Brando) and moments of chilling clarity amidst the chaos.
NFT, London SE1 (0171-928 2232) 8.10pm

Theatre Dominic Cavendish

DAVID LEWIS'S *Sperma Wars* is a smart comedy about an infertile husband, his exasperated wife and their geeky donor, in which earnest clinical discussions give way to bitterly funny sex-tos. It's an uneven ride, which nevertheless gets an impressive amount of comic mileage out of the biological forces that drive couples together and apart.
Orange Tree, Richmond, Surrey (0181-940 3633) 7.45pm
Bill Alexander's *Hamlet* has got Birmingham Rep's new improved season off to a rousing start. The cherubic Richard McCabe lends a deceptively light-hearted edge to the prince's "antic disposition", parading about in a nightgown through a vast, murky *Elizabeta* to unnerve the panic-prone Claudius (Gerard Murphy, right). Strongly recommended.
Birmingham Rep Theatre (0121-236 4455) 7.30pm



Pop Tim Perry

JUST THREE years ago, the youthful quintet BR5-49 (right) were still playing continuous four-hour sets - without toilet breaks - in Nashville bars. By reviving the good-time honky-tonk sound and infusing it with 1990s attitude, BR5-49 are on the other side of the country coin from the nose-jobs and wigs on display at the recent CMA Awards. This short visit to the UK (with a London gig tomorrow night at the Shepherd's Bush Empire) plugs their latest album, *Big Backyard Beat Show*.
Corn Exchange, Cambridge (01223 357851) 7.30pm
Unlike most dance outfits, Red Snapper believe in playing totally live without the aid of computers, samplers or other such gadgetry. Acclaimed many times over as one of the country's most exciting live acts, they are on the road to promote their excellent and eclectic new album, *Making Bones*.
Leeds Mill, Sheffield (0114-275 4500) 8pm



Classical Duncan Hadfield

A NUMBER of world-class singers have already stepped through the Wigmore Hall's doors in the fortnight since the new season began. And now comes the legendary Spanish diva Teresa Berganza. Accompanied by Juan Antonio Alvarez Parejo, the mezzo-soprano sings native repertoire by Granados, Turina and Halffter, as well as further songs by Mussorgsky, Brahms and Rossini.
Wigmore Hall, London W1 (0171-935 2141) 7.30pm
The exciting young ensemble Psappha turns its attention to Frank Zappa (right), with four of the American iconoclast's key compositions which have been specially arranged for the group by Philip Cashian. Aside from the Zappa, there's also room for John Adams's recent quirky Clarinet Concerto, "Gnarly Buttons", with Dov Goldberg taking the solo line.
Royal Northern College of Music, Manchester (0161-907 5278) 7.30pm



CINEMA LONDON LOCALS

ABC BAKER STREET (0870 9020418) @ Baker Street
The Last Days of Disco 1.15pm, 3.40pm, 6.05pm, 8.30pm, Lethal Weapon 4 2.20pm, 5.20pm, 8.10pm

ABC PANTON STREET (0870 9020404) @ Piccadilly Circus
The Big Lebowski 1.15pm, 3.40pm, 6.05pm, 8.30pm, Cube 1.40pm, 4.10pm, 6.30pm, 8.50pm, The Last Days of Disco 1.10pm, 3.35pm, 6pm, 8.25pm, Live Flesh 1.40pm, 4pm, 6.20pm, 8.40pm

ABC PICCADILLY (0171-227 4322 (from 1pm)) @ Piccadilly Circus
The Doom Generation 1.25pm, 3.40pm, 6.10pm, 8.50pm, Lolita 3.10pm, 8pm, Love And Death On Long Island 1.05pm, 6pm

ABC SHAFTESBURY AVENUE (0870 9020402) @ Leicester Square
The Last Days of Disco 1.25pm, 3.50pm, 6.15pm, 8.45pm, The Horse Whisperer 12.40pm, 4.20pm, 7.45pm

ABC SWISS CENTRE (0870 9020403) @ Leicester Square
The Last Days of Disco 1.10pm, 3.30pm, 6pm, 8.30pm, The Day After Tomorrow 1.10pm, 3.30pm, 6pm, 8.30pm, Dido 1.10pm, 3.40pm, 5.10pm, 6.10pm, 8.40pm, Zero Effect 6.10pm, 8.40pm

ABC TOTTENHAM COURT ROAD (0870 9020414) @ Tottenham Court Road
Lethal Weapon 4 1.15pm, 3.40pm, 6.05pm, 8.30pm, Saving Private Ryan 1.05pm, 4.40pm, 8.20pm, There's Something About Mary 1.20pm, 4pm, 6.40pm, 9.20pm

BARBICAN SCREEN (0171-638 8891) @ Barbican
Love Is The Devil 6.15pm, 8.40pm, Saving Private Ryan 7.30pm

CHELSEA CINEMA (0171-351 3742) @ Sloane Square
Love Is The Devil 1pm, 2.55pm, 4.55pm, 6.55pm, 9pm

CLAPHAM PICTURE HOUSE (0171-491 3223) @ Clapham Common
Lethal Weapon 4 1pm, 3.45pm, 6.30pm, 8.10pm, Saving Private Ryan 1.30pm, 4.45pm, 8.15pm, There's Something About Mary 1.20pm, 4.40pm, 8.20pm

CURZON MAYFAIR (0171-369 1720) @ Green Park
Character 2.45pm, 5.30pm, 8.15pm

ELEPHANT AND CASTLE CORONET (0171-703 4968) @ Elephant & Castle
Lethal Weapon 4 4pm, 5.45pm, 8.20pm, Saving Private Ryan 4.05pm, 7.40pm, There's Something About Mary 3.35pm, 6pm, 8.30pm

EMPIRE LEICESTER SQUARE (0900-888990) @ Leicester Square
Godzilla 2pm, 5.10pm, 8.10pm, Saving Private Ryan 12noon, 4pm, 8pm, Sliding Doors 1pm, 3.20pm, 5.40pm, 8pm

GATE NOTTING HILL (0171-727 4043) @ Notting Hill Gate
Lock, Stock & Two Smoking Barrels 8.05pm, Love Is The Devil 2.30pm, 4.40pm, 7pm (1+ Short: The Queen's Monastery)

HAMMERSMITH VIRGIN (0870-9070718) @ Ravenscourt Park
Lethal Weapon 4 12.10pm, 3pm, 5.50pm, 8.40pm, Lock, Stock & Two Smoking Barrels 12.40pm, 3.30pm, 6.30pm, 8.10pm, Saving Private Ryan 12.20pm, 4.20pm, 6pm, There's Something About Mary 12.50pm, 3.30pm, 6.10pm, 8pm

ICA CINEMA (0171-930 3647) @ Charing Cross
U2 Rattle and Hum 6.30pm, 8.30pm, La Vie De Jesus 5pm, 7pm, 8pm

METRO (0171-734 1506) @ Piccadilly Circus
Love Is The Devil 2pm, 4.15pm, 6.30pm, 8.45pm, Men With Guns 1pm, 3.30pm, 6pm, 8.30pm

CURZON MINIMA (0171-369 1723) @ Hyde Park Corner
Knightsbridge La Bessie 3.30pm, 6.30pm, 8.45pm

NOTTING HILL CORONET (0171-727 6705) @ Notting Hill Gate
There's Something About Mary 3pm, 6pm, 8.35pm

ODEON CAMDEN TOWN (0181-315 4229) @ Camden
The Last Days of Disco 12.30pm, 3.25pm, 6pm, 8.45pm, Lethal Weapon 4 12noon, 2.50pm, 5.45pm, 8.35pm, Lock, Stock & Two Smoking Barrels 12.40pm, 3.30pm, 6.10pm, 9.05pm, Saving Private Ryan 12.30pm, 4.10pm, 7.45pm, There's Something About Mary 12.15pm, 3pm, 5.55pm, 8.40pm

ODEON HAYMARKET (0181-315 4212) @ Piccadilly Circus
Titanic 2pm, 7.15pm

ODEON KENSINGTON (0181-315 4214) @ High Street
Kensington Cube 4.35pm, 7.15pm, 9.40pm, The Horse Whisperer 1pm, The Last Days of Disco 12.20pm, 4.05pm, 6.40pm, There's Something About Mary 12.30pm, 3.25pm, 6.25pm, 9.25pm, Lock, Stock & Two Smoking Barrels 4.25pm, 7.05pm, 9.45pm, Saving Private Ryan 1.25pm, 5.05pm, 8.45pm, There's Something About Mary 1pm, 3.50pm, 6.40pm, 9.30pm

ODEON LEICESTER SQUARE (0181-315 4215) @ Leicester Square
There's Something About Mary 12.25pm, 3pm, 5.45pm, 8.30pm

ODEON MARBLE ARCH (0181-315 4216) @ Marble Arch
The Horse Whisperer 1.35pm, 5.15pm, 8.45pm, Lethal Weapon 4 1.20pm, 3.10pm, 6.05pm, 9.10pm, Lock, Stock & Two Smoking Barrels 12.55pm, 3.30pm, 6.10pm, 8.55pm, Saving Private Ryan 1.15pm, 5.05pm, 8.40pm, There's Something About Mary 12.30pm, 3.25pm, 6.15pm, 9pm

ODEON MEZZANINE (0181-315 4215) @ Leicester Square
Cousin Bette 3.50pm, 8.40pm, The Horse Whisperer 1.05pm, 4.20pm, 7.45pm, Lost In Space 12.25pm, 3.10pm, 5.55pm, 8.20pm, The Object of My Affection 1.35pm, 6.15pm, 8.40pm, Seven Nights 1.55pm, 4pm, 6.10pm, 8.30pm, The Singers 12.25pm, 4.30pm, 6.40pm, 8.50pm

ODEON SWISS COTTAGE (0181-315 4220) @ Swiss Cottage
Cube 2.10pm, 4.20pm, 6.35pm, 8.55pm, Lethal Weapon 4 12.10pm, 2.55pm, 5.40pm, 8.30pm, Lock, Stock & Two Smoking Barrels 1pm, 3.10pm, 6.05pm, 9.10pm, Saving Private Ryan 12.30pm, 4pm, 7.40pm, The Spanish Prisoner 1.30pm, 3.55pm, 6.20pm, 8.45pm, There's Something About Mary 12.20pm, 3.10pm, 5.45pm, 8.30pm

ODEON WEST END (0181-315 4221) @ Leicester Square
Rising 1.25pm, 3.50pm, 6.20pm, 8.50pm, The X-Files 12.40pm, 3.15pm, 5.55pm, 8.35pm

PHOENIX CINEMA (0181-444 6789) @ East Finchley
Le Bossu 1.40pm, 6.25pm, Love Is The Devil 4.20pm, 9.05pm

PLAZA (0900-888990) @ Piccadilly Circus
The Castle 1.05pm, 3.10pm, 6.05pm, Cube 1pm, 3.25pm, 6.10pm, 8.25pm, Lock, Stock & Two Smoking Barrels 12.30pm, 3pm, 6pm, 8.40pm, Saving Private Ryan 3.15pm, 7.15pm, Species II 8.30pm

RENOIR (0171-837 8402) @ Russell Square
Lock, Stock & Two Smoking Barrels 1pm, 2.55pm, 4.55pm, 6.55pm, Secret Defense 1.05pm, 4.25pm, 7.50pm

RIO CINEMA (0171-254 6677) @ Dalston
Kingsland Men With Guns 6pm, 8.35pm, Pulp 4.15pm

RITZY CINEMA (0171-733 2229) @ Brixton
The Rules of Engagement 1.30pm, 4.45pm, 7.15pm, The Last Days of Disco 1.30pm, 4pm, 6.30pm (1+ Short: Shave Like You Mean It), Lock, Stock & Two Smoking Barrels 2.20pm, 4.35pm, 7.05pm, 9.25pm, Love Is The Devil 3.10pm, 5.20pm, 7.25pm, 9.30pm (1+ Short: The Queen's Monastery), Saving Private Ryan 1.45pm, 5.10pm, 8.30pm, There's Something About Mary 1.50pm, 4.15pm, 6.45pm, 8.15pm

ROYAL WARREN VILLAGE (0181-896 0066) @ Park Royal
Armageddon 8.35pm, Babylon 5 6.25pm, Deep Rising 12.15pm, 2.35pm, 4.55pm, 7.15pm, Dr Dolittle 12.20pm, 2.20pm, 4.20pm, Lethal Weapon 4 12.05pm, 2.50pm, 4.10pm, 6pm, 8.55pm, 8.50pm, 9.45pm, Lock, Stock & Two Smoking Barrels 12.25pm, 2.50pm, 5.15pm, 7.40pm, 10.05pm, Saving Private Ryan 1pm, 2.05pm, 4.40pm, 5.35pm, 8.20pm, There's Something About Mary 1.10pm, 1.55pm, 3.50pm, 4.30pm, 6.35pm, 7.05pm, 8.20pm, 9.55pm, Woo 9.35pm

SAFARI CINEMA (0181-896 0066) @ Park Royal
Armageddon 8.35pm, Babylon 5 6.25pm, Deep Rising 12.15pm, 2.35pm, 4.55pm, 7.15pm, Dr Dolittle 12.20pm, 2.20pm, 4.20pm, Lethal Weapon 4 12.05pm, 2.50pm, 4.10pm, 6pm, 8.55pm, 8.50pm, 9.45pm, Lock, Stock & Two Smoking Barrels 12.25pm, 2.50pm, 5.15pm, 7.40pm, 10.05pm, Saving Private Ryan 1pm, 2.05pm, 4.40pm, 5.35pm, 8.20pm, There's Something About Mary 1.10pm, 1.55pm, 3.50pm, 4.30pm, 6.35pm, 7.05pm, 8.20pm, 9.55pm, Woo 9.35pm

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Armageddon 8.35pm, Babylon 5 6.25pm, Deep Rising 12.15pm, 2.35pm, 4.55pm, 7.15pm, Dr Dolittle 12.20pm, 2.20pm, 4.20pm, Lethal Weapon 4 12.05pm, 2.50pm, 4.10pm, 6pm, 8.55pm, 8.50pm, 9.45pm, Lock, Stock & Two Smoking Barrels 12.25pm, 2.50pm, 5.15pm, 7.40pm, 10.05pm, Saving Private Ryan 1pm, 2.05pm, 4.40pm, 5.35pm, 8.20pm, There's Something About Mary 1.10pm, 1.55pm, 3.50pm, 4.30pm, 6.35pm, 7.05pm, 8.20pm, 9.55pm, Woo 9.35pm

SAFARI CINEMA (0181-896 0066) @ Park Royal
Armageddon 8.35pm, Babylon 5 6.25pm, Deep Rising 12.15pm, 2.35pm, 4.55pm, 7.15pm, Dr Dolittle 12.20pm, 2.20pm, 4.20pm, Lethal Weapon 4 12.05pm, 2.50pm, 4.10pm, 6pm, 8.55pm, 8.50pm, 9.45pm, Lock, Stock & Two Smoking Barrels 12.25pm, 2.50pm, 5.15pm, 7.40pm, 10.05pm, Saving Private Ryan 1pm, 2.05pm, 4.40pm, 5.35pm, 8.20pm, There's Something About Mary 1.10pm, 1.55pm, 3.50pm, 4.30pm, 6.35pm, 7.05pm, 8.20pm, 9.55pm, Woo 9.35pm

SCREEN ON BAKER STREET (0171-935 2772) @ Baker Street
Saving Private Ryan 3pm, 7pm, 9pm, Dr Dolittle 12.15pm, 2pm, 3.45pm, Godzilla 5.45pm, Lethal Weapon 4 12.15pm, 3pm, 5.45pm, 8.30pm, Lock, Stock & Two Smoking Barrels 1pm, 3.30pm, 6.10pm, 8.45pm, Saving Private Ryan 12.45pm, 4.15pm, 7.45pm, There's Something About Mary 12.30pm, 3pm, 5.30pm, 8.15pm, The X-Files 8.30pm

SCREEN ON THE GREEN (0171-226 3520) @ Angel
Buffalo 66 7.30pm (Q & A with Director) Saving Private Ryan 3.30pm, 7.40pm

SCREEN ON THE HILL (0171-435 3366) @ Belsize Park
Love Is The Devil 3pm, 5pm, 7pm, 9.05pm

Channel 5

6.00 B News and Sport (S) (6077616) **7.00** **WideWorld**
(7039184) **7.30** **Milwaukee (S)** (5032300) **7.35** **What-**
Mase (110827) **8.00** **Hawalezo (S)** (3227789) **8.30**

1:30 The Oprah Winfrey Show (8428282).

1:30 Family Affair. Holly, Jels, Chris and Annie find she and Susie are back together, but Chris thinks she is still confused. She's not the only one (S) (T) (84547580).

1:50 CRUISE UEFA Cup - Live! Streamogodest vs Aston Villa. Steve Scott introduces first-round, second-leg action from Norway. See *Match of the Day*, below (84283281).

2:00 6 News, including First on Five. National and international news with Kristy Young (B) (T) (8077915).

2:30 UEFA Cup - Live! Liverpool vs Karlsruhe. Steve Scott - a busy night for him! - presents the first-round, second-leg action from Austria. Liverpool should have little trouble dispatching the Swedish club, but never know though. Commentary by Jonathan Pearce, and should Karlova do the impossible and force extra time or penalties, then subsequent programmes may change (88282729).

3:05 FILM Suspicious Minds (Ray Barrie 1984

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